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ABSTRACT

This book is the third of four volumes in a directory of more than 1,000 discretionary grants and contracts supported by the Research to Practice Division of the Office of Special Education Programs. This volume focuses on projects concerned with technology and media services. These projects are intended to: (1) support educational media activities designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities; (2) provide video description, open captioning, or closed captioning of television programs, videos, or educational materials; (3) distribute captioned and described videos or educational materials; (4) provide free educational materials, including textbooks, in accessible media for visually impaired and print-disabled students in schools at all levels; and (5) provide cultural experiences through appropriate nonprofit organizations, such as the National Theater of the Deaf. Projects are grouped within the specific programs and competitions under which they were funded. Provided for each listing is the following information: grant number, project title, project director, address and other contact information, beginning and ending dates, and an abstract presenting the project's intended purpose, method, and products. Four indexes are provided, including a project director index, an organization index, a

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state index, and a subject index. (DB)

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DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY
THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

FISCAL YEAR 2002

TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES

PREPARED BY
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THE ERIC/OSEP SPECIAL PROJECT
ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE ON DISABILITIES AND GIFTED EDUCATION
THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

IDEAs that Work
U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
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TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

This directory, which is presented in four separately published sections, describes over 1,000 discretionary grants and contracts supported by the Research to Practice Division of the Office of Special Education Programs, which administers the discretionary programs authorized by the 1997 Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Projects are grouped into the following four sections representing the seven program areas of IDEA, Part D:

1: **Research, Innovation, and Evaluation** (which covers two programs: *Research and Innovation* and *Studies and Evaluations*)

2: **Personnel Preparation**

3: **Technical Assistance, Dissemination, Parent Information, and State Improvement** (which covers three programs: *Technical Assistance and Dissemination*; *Parent Training and Information*; and *State Improvement Grants)*

4: **Technology and Media Services**

This section of the directory, "Technology and Media Services," presents projects that aim to: (1) support educational media activities that are designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities; (2) provide video description, open captioning, or closed captioning of television programs, videos, or educational materials; (3) distribute captioned and described videos or educational materials; (4) provide free educational materials, including textbooks, in accessible media for visually impaired and print-disabled students in elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and graduate schools; and (5) provide cultural experiences through appropriate nonprofit organizations, such as the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Within this section of the directory, the projects are grouped within the programs and competitions under which they were funded. Within each competition, the projects are arranged in order from the earliest to the most recent. Access to the project information is enhanced by several indexes, which include:

- Project Director Index
- Organization Index
- State Index
- Subject Index

The information in this directory is also available on the World Wide Web as a searchable database. It is located at: http://ericec.org/osep/search.html

84.327A

STEPPINGSTONES OF TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Grant Number: H327A000036

Disseminating and Replicating an Effective Emerging Literacy Technology Curriculum: ELiTeC

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

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Purpose: This project, ELiTeC (Emerging Literacy Technology Curriculum), will disseminate information related to the development of the curriculum, replicate and validate the project's research findings in a range of typical rural and urban educational settings, and study implementation and maintenance at replication sites. The project is based on prior effective early childhood models for technology curricular integration.

Method: Three groups of multiple, complex sites, both rural and urban, will be used in the model development. The first site will receive more on-site training and follow up from the ELiTeC team than the second group, providing a means to test the conditions needed to establish and maintain the curriculum. Sites in the second group will be modeled on an outreach model used successfully for 21 years. The third group's sites will be studied to determine teacher modifications and the conditions necessary for maintenance. Project staff will provide replication sites with ongoing staff development training and support for teachers, professional staff, and families. Follow-up training and consultations will occur on-site, by e-mail, phone, videotape exchange, and on the project's web site.

Products: Dissemination will be done via face-to-face presentations, publications, television, videotape, and web site. Targeted audiences will include school boards, administrators, state departments of education, teachers, support staff, families, consumers, and legislators. A detailed blueprint for further dissemination and implementation of the model will be developed, in addition to videotapes and development modules.

Grant Number: H327A000038

ClassWide Peer Tutoring-Learning Management System (CWPT-LMS) Technology Supporting Literacy, Accountability and Access to General Education Curriculum—Phase 3—Implementation and Validation Research Project

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http://www.jgcp.ku.edu/Grants/CWPT-LMS.htm

Beginning Date: 8/01/00
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: Phase Three of this project will investigate the implementation of the ClassWide Peer Tutoring-Learning Management System (CWPT-LMS) in multiple, complex settings and evaluate contexts within which it may be effectively used and sustained in local elementary schools. Based on a multi-level, ecological-interaction framework for investigating contextual factors, both a national urban and a regional rural investigation will be conducted.

Method: A total of 22 elementary schools (14 urban, 8 rural) will participate (22 principals, 280 teachers, and 8,500 students — 980 students with disabilities in all). A delayed, control-group design with case studies will control rival hypotheses and illuminate individual cases. This project will investigate use in geographically, ethnically diverse urban and rural schools, diverse hardware platforms, and diverse general education curricula. Classroom teachers, parents of children with disabilities, and persons with disabilities will participate in the planning, design, and evaluation.

Products: The primary outcome will be a "blueprint" to be used in dissemination and utilization of the CWPT-LMS approach. The completed dissemination "blueprint" will consist of Core Components, Support Components, and Replication Components. Another outcome will be new information on the contextual factors that either promote or hinder utilization. Impact data will be collected yearly to determine student outcomes, quality of implementation, level of teacher use and participation, consumer satisfaction, and the adaptations made to the model in rural, suburban, and urban elementary schools. Of primary importance will be large-scale demonstration of the successful linkage of technology components to curriculum and progress monitoring in ways that encourage effectiveness, usability, and accessibility.

Grant Number: H327A010005

The Cornerstones Project, Phase II

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Beginning Date: 1/01/02
Ending Date: 12/31/03

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Purpose: This Phase II continuation of a Steppingstones Project builds on development and formative evaluation conducted in Phase I. It makes use of technology to improve literacy in children who are deaf or hard of hearing by delivering a digital curriculum as an enhancement to public television programs. The Cornerstones approach offers teachers materials customized for deaf students that immerse children in technology-infused, research-based, literacy instruction.

Method: Phase II will employ a rigorous scientific paradigm to evaluate the effectiveness of the Cornerstones approach to improve literacy of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Literacy objectives for students will focus on learning a large repertoire of vocabulary words in print, learning about words conceptually and understanding multiple aspects of each word, and increasing background knowledge to facilitate comprehension of written materials. The project will evaluate the feasibility and value of the technology in the classroom and explore the value of the approach for teachers and parents in improving home-school literacy connections.

Products: Cornerstones materials -- videos, interactive activities, and lesson guides for teachers -- will be delivered to the classroom or the home via digital television, the Internet, CD-ROM or DVD. NCAM will promote the Cornerstones Project as a model that demonstrates the educational potential of technology to build literacy skills and as a model for public television, demonstrating how educational materials can have a broader impact by adding features for special populations.

Grant Number: H327A010007

Field Testing the Learning Toolbox: An Instructional Resource Website for Secondary Students with Mild Disabilities, Teachers, and Parents

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Beginning Date: 9/01/01
Ending Date: 8/31/03

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Purpose: This project will field test The Learning Toolbox, a Website designed to assist secondary students with learning disabilities and ADHD to become more effective learners using research-based strategies. The Learning Toolbox is designed for independent use by students, special and general education teachers, and parents.

Method: The project Website, The Learning Toolbox, will disseminate the positive results of a previously funded project on a curriculum for college students with mild disabilities. During the first year of the project, the Website will be field tested using the criterion of usability (i.e., whether the strategies on the Website are put into practice by students, teacher, and parents). The results of the field testing will be disseminated at the end of the second year.

Products: The project should lead to more effective use of technology for improving the participation of students with disabilities in meeting the rigorous academic demands of the general education curriculum, passing high-stakes tests, and successfully meeting the academic requirements of postsecondary education. The Website will be disseminated through the linkages established over the course of the project, and the findings will be posted as reports on the Website as well as disseminated through conventional means (articles and presentations).

Grant Number: H327A010012

TELE-Web: Technology Enhanced Learning Environments on the Web

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Beginning Date: 8/16/01
Ending Date: 8/15/04

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Purpose: This project will describe, modify, and evaluate research-based practices that have been incorporated into a technology application, Technology Enhanced Learning Environments on the Web (TELE-Web). TELE-Web is Internet-based software designed to accelerate and scaffold the literacy learning of students with disabilities in the core academic subjects (reading, writing, social studies, and science).

Method: TELE-Web offers multiple levels of support for teachers and students, including text-speech functions, drawing functions, a spelling program, writing and publishing programs, mapping functions to support reading and writing, software to promote the development of word recognition, phonemic awareness and comprehension, and book chat rooms. Participants will include 18 general education teachers and 18 resource room teachers as well as their 200 general education students and 100 students with learning/behavioral disorders, mental impairments, or developmental delays. Responses of students and teachers will be evaluated and the effectiveness of the program will be studied longitudinally to determine the program's efficacy in terms of accelerating literacy achievement.

Products: Descriptions of the project, position papers, and research reports will be written by the principal investigators and will be published for wide audiences within the education field. Additionally, TELE-Web can be easily and widely disseminated on the Internet to teachers, students, researchers, and teacher educators. By maintaining a professional development network, the project will support professional development as it relates to literacy and technology, as well as furthering project dissemination.

Grant Number: H327A010015

Steppingstones Student Compass On-line: Navigating to Success

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: This project will develop a hand-held electronic data tool that will support middle school students with mild disabilities as they progress in the general education classroom. The device, Student Compass On-Line (SCO), will assist students in collecting information related to their daily performance and prompt them to employ cognitive, self-regulation, task-attack, goal-setting, and problem-solving strategies to improve their academic, teamwork, and social skill performance during general education instructional activities.

Method: The electronic data tool will run on affordable mobile computers and will become more widely available as computer technology becomes more powerful and less expensive. The SCO device will allow students to monitor their own performance in areas such as homework, class preparation, attendance, discipline, teamwork competencies, and social skills. The first major component will include data fields related to academic performance, such as state performance assessment scores, and non-academic performance areas, such as class preparedness and social skills. The Instructional Strategies Bank will be a repository for effective learning strategies, graphic organizers, performance rubrics, story prompts, and vocabulary practice methods. The third component will consist of cues or messages to guide students through specified instructional procedures, specific learning tasks, and study guides. It will include a calendar to remind students of regular activities. The fourth module will contain report templates such as daily goal attainment, recognition certificates, management forms, and parent letter templates. Students using the SCO will help in the process of identifying and disseminating learning strategies that have worked in their classrooms. By giving students responsibility and access to their own learning processes and strategies, SCO will encourage greater participation by consumers traditionally excluded from education theory and practice.

Products: Teachers whose students will be using SCO will be encouraged to share best practices with one another in electronic learning communities, and project results will be disseminated on educational intranet and Internet sites. The project will also offer numerous professional development activities across the state of Maryland and will present at national conferences and publish in education journals.

Grant Number: H327A010019

The Role of Speech Output Technology for Beginning Communicators

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: This Phase 2 project will determine whether voice output communication aids (VOCAs) with either synthetic or digitized speech output are more efficient than devices without speech output, and whether synthetic speech is more efficient than digitized speech output in supporting requesting in beginning communicators under optimal conditions. In addition, the project will monitor the impact of various conditions on learners' vocalizations, which will provide urgently needed data on the impact of aided augmentative and alternative communication aids (AAC) systems on beginning communicators' natural speech development.

Method: The project will evaluate whether speech output (synthetic and digitized) is a causal factor in promoting requesting and vocalizations in beginning communicators. Staff will conduct rigorous field-based research and evaluation by comparing the efficacy of the approach using low-tech devices (demonstrated to be efficacious in Phase 1) with VOCAs (high-tech devices that emerged as promising in Phase 1). Participants between 10 to 14 years of age will be recruited through schools in Boston and in Florida. Participants will have little to no functional speech (as determined by informal teacher interview), severe mental retardation, and pervasive support needs in all major adaptive skill areas (e.g., self-care, social skills, communication, home living, community use, self direction, health and safety). Six participants will be recruited for each of the studies.

Products: The project will determine which type of technology, in a defined range of "optimal" real world contexts, will result in more efficient requesting and vocalizations among beginning communicators.

Grant Number: H327A010022

Instant Access to Refreshable Braille in the Inclusive Classroom

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: While refreshable braille technology is available, a system for providing and integrating this technology into the general education classroom is not. This project will develop and document a system for integration of portable braille notetakers with refreshable braille in classrooms, involving a total of 15 students and 15 school teams in New York State.

Method: Advances in technology have introduced an innovative alternative to hardcopy braille, called "refreshable braille," providing instant braille access to material stored electronically. Textbooks may be scanned into the computer and saved onto a single 3.5" floppy disk, or may be provided by the publisher in electronic format. Refreshable braille displays use moveable small pins that raise and lower as needed to form braille characters. After a line of text is read, the user can "refresh" the display by pressing a button, and read the next line. Refreshable braille displays are built into portable braille notetakers that can be used for both reading and writing. Project objectives include: 1) provide refreshable braille systems and training; 2) convert print learning materials to electronic format; 3) conduct a formative evaluation; and 4) disseminate project materials and findings.

Products: The outcome of this project will be a replicable system for implementing refreshable braille in the general education classroom, which will lead to improvements in education for students who use braille.

Grant Number: H327A010033

InReach: Using Technology to Ensure Effective Transition from NICU to Part C Services

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: This project will expand the collaborative work completed by Utah's Part C (early intervention) lead agency, two tertiary neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), and the Early Intervention Research Institute. In this project, innovative technology will be developed to make the transition from NICU to Part C available to all NICU infants who qualify for Part C services.

Method: The project will use innovative technology to support the joint Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) process using a desktop conferencing system. A DVD video will be developed to inform parents and NICU staff about Part C services, and a Website will be established where families can see the infant in the NICU and receive updates.

Products: The project will develop and pilot the NICU transition/joint IFSP model, expand and demonstrate the usefulness of the transition process in additional NICUs and community Part C agencies, and disseminate the findings regionally and nationally. Evaluation will determine whether the model improves parents' ability to understand their infants' strengths and needs, increases the collaboration between NICU and the Part C system, and enables more Part C-eligible infants to make a smooth transition from the NICU into community Part C services.

Grant Number: H327A010039

Computer ACE Reading, Phase 2 (ACE = Accelerated Community Empowerment)

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Beginning Date: 9/01/01
Ending Date: 8/31/03

OSEP Contact: Dave Malouf
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Purpose: "ACE (Accelerated Community Empowerment) for Reading" is a literacy improvement program developed for students with disabilities in communities with high levels of need. In a Phase 1 Steppingstones grant, the project developed computer software training protocols and promising replications in Philadelphia and Micronesia. The original program gave students daily individual reading practice with community tutors, emphasizing a "feedforward" philosophy that ensures high levels of success and boosts self-efficacy through a personal videotape, carefully edited to show "future" capability of reading performance. This combination of community resources and technology has been highly effective in teaching literacy-related skills. Computer ACE Phase 1 was a response to multiethnic schools where the needs are so great that currently effective programs must be supplemented with low-cost methods to increase the rates of engagement (practice) by students in literacy-related activities. The purpose of Computer ACE Phase 2 is to conduct a systematic research investigation of the Phase 1 multimedia-based package to improve literacy-related skills of elementary students with disabilities and with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Method: The project's first year will emphasize implementing the package with students in elementary schools in three diverse regions (Micronesia, Hawaii, and Kentucky); providing intensive training to teachers and community members; and collecting data. The project will test two hypotheses: 1) does Computer ACE improve reading and other literacy skills more than regular classroom instruction?; and 2) what significant programmatic adjustments will Computer ACE require in linguistically diverse settings? The dependent variables (outcome measures) will include fluency and engagement in passage reading, sight word recognition, and phonemic skills, plus changes in tutoring/supervision protocols and changes to the package specific to the location. Both qualitative and quantitative data will also be collected in such areas as: 1) comprehension, motivation, and self-perceived competency by students; 2) changes in teachers' (and community members') knowledge and practices related to literacy instruction through the use of technology; 3) the extent to which the package is incorporated as part of general classroom instruction of afterschool programming; and 4) the impact on the family. The focus of Year Two will be to complete that data collection and analysis, to explore some formative studies to generate new hypotheses, and to establish the basis for Phase 3 (implementation research).

Products: The products from this project will include the Computer ACE 2 package of training materials. Findings will be distributed widely via the Internet, replication packages, multimedia presentations, journal articles, and so on.

Grant Number: H327A010044

Effectiveness of Assistive Technology in Promoting Playfulness in Young Children

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: This project uses the "Let's Play" service model (a caregiver-centered, assistive technology-supported, play-based service) to establish physical and human environments that promote play and playfulness in children with disabilities. The project will also determine the feasibility of using the model's approach in early intervention settings.

Method: Through field-testing of the assistive-technology, play-based service (AT/Play), the project will attempt to answer the following questions: is this approach effective in developing a supportive human and material environment that promotes play and playfulness in children with disabilities, and is it feasible to include the AT/Play approach with other early intervention services. To answer these questions, the project has designed a three-phase method using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. It will identify strengths and weaknesses of the approach and analyze data in various ways to provide for a comprehensive analysis.

Products: The primary product will be a refinement and description of the AT/Play approach defined in the "Let's Play" service model. This and other project products documenting the model will be disseminated to parent and professional organizations that serve families with infants and toddlers with disabilities by means of publications and conference presentations. The "Let's Play" Website will contain educational materials updated and refined as results become available, and the site will add other components such as areas to share "best" uses of play materials and other AT devices. The information gleaned by this project will also be used to adapt and replicate the AT/Play approach for use in early intervention systems elsewhere.

Grant Number: H327A010048

A Technological Approach for Pregnancy Prevention among Youth with Disabilities (TAPP)

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Beginning Date: 8/01/01
Ending Date: 7/31/03

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Purpose: This project will develop a new technological teaching strategy for teaching pregnancy prevention and responsible living to youth with mild mental disabilities. The primary target audience is secondary students with disabilities, and the secondary audience includes educators, service providers, and policy makers.

Method: The project will collect and analyze information regarding the incidence of pregnancy and parenting among youth with disabilities and develop an interactive CD-ROM related to pregnancy prevention. Use of curricular materials developed specifically for learning needs of youth with high-incidence disabilities will enhance their educational development and impact programs which address pregnancy prevention and responsible adult roles.

Products: The CD-ROM, after field testing and evaluation, will be disseminated to a number of groups that do not currently disseminate information regarding the needs and provision of specialized services on teaching pregnancy prevention to youth with disabilities. These groups include: school systems with programs for youth with disabilities, programs under the auspices of state departments of human resources and their local affiliates, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations.

Grant Number: H327A010051

Project Homework Helper: Using Web-Based Courses, CD-ROMs, Video Conferencing with Deaf Students

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Beginning Date: 9/01/01
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Purpose: This project will develop and refine a technology-based approach to increasing homework skills through Internet-based courses and videoconferencing, and test its feasibility with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, primarily from minority families.

Method: Project staff will develop Internet-based "homework helper" courses that will be available online, along with CD-ROM homework lessons. Staff will network 10 teachers with videoconferencing and train a total of 60 teachers to develop their own online lessons tailored to the specific needs of their students. Lessons developed by the project will be structured to meet the linguistic, idiomatic, and vocabulary needs of the population of students who are deaf or hard of hearing, thereby making the curriculum accessible.

Products: This project will directly impact about 360 deaf students and will affect hundreds more nationwide and worldwide. A total of 60 teachers will be trained and mentored to develop Web-based homework lessons for their deaf students. Dissemination plans include access to the Website with homework lessons designed by project teachers and courses, all of which will be widely available to teachers worldwide. Project teachers will give workshops and collect ethnographic data on the students doing homework. These data will be compiled into online "student homework ethnographies" and the results will be published in professional journals. A manual on how to develop homework lessons for deaf students will also be available on the World Wide Web for access by all teachers.

Grant Number: H327A020016

Enabling Customized Language Representation for Language Learning and Use

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Beginning Date: 7/01/02
Ending Date: 6/30/04

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Purpose: The University of Delaware's Center for Applied Science and Engineering in Rehabilitation will develop a portable, highly customizable communication device that offers features unavailable in today's commercial marketplace. Specifically, the device enables the capture of images from an individual's surroundings and their portrayal as choices within a communication device in a variety of representational forms. For example, if an individual understands only color photographs, images will be captured and portrayed in that form.

Method: The research and development activities have been conceptualized in three phases. This project is Phase I, in which a prototype image manipulation tool and "mid-user" interface will be developed and alpha tested, and feasibility analyses with representatives of end-user populations will be conducted.

Products: The system that will be developed is an instructional design tool, a system for delivery of instruction, and an augmentative and alternative communication device. Its purpose is to facilitate individuals' cognitive development, especially in regard to concept formation and language representation. The system will demonstrate the extent to which well-designed technology can improve fundamental cognitive processes. As such, it is a breakthrough for those with significant cognitive impairments who are unable to access current technologies because of their inherent cognitive barriers. This project will demonstrate the extent to which individuals' lack of progress was a function of humans' lack of appropriate tools rather than their inability to learn.

Grant Number: H327A020017

KLICK!: Kids Learning in Computer Klubhouses

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Beginning Date: 8/16/02
Ending Date: 8/15/04

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Purpose: This project will evaluate the feasibility of an after-school clubhouse known as KLICK!: Kids Learning in Computer Klubhouses, which will offer engaging, authentic, and technology-rich activities to students with disabilities in urban, suburban, and rural settings. KLICK! is a powerful approach toward meeting the needs of students at risk for school failure, but there has been little examination of the extent to which the instructional methodology is effective for students with disabilities.

Method: In the KLICK! clubhouses, students engage in project-based learning activities that will promote their literacy, communication, collaboration, and academic skills. Students design projects that use various technology applications that are useful to the school and broader community. Through these activities, some researchers believe that students with disabilities become more active participants, develop problem-solving abilities, acquire a sense of audience, develop personal and interdisciplinary connections to knowledge, and develop a sense of service to the community. In this Phase 2 project, the project staff will implement and evaluate the feasibility of the KLICK! clubhouses, involving student participants from 12 schools including approximately 150 students with disabilities. In Year 1, the project will conduct design experiments in four KLICK! clubhouses to: 1) evaluate the effectiveness of KLICK! for students with disabilities; 2) examine how students with disabilities problem solve, abstract, experiment, and collaborate with others in both formal school and informal after-school settings; 3) study the implementation factors, instructional assistance, and cognitive or social scaffolds in the KLICK! contexts that provide access to the content, promote participation, and provoke deeper understanding among students with disabilities; and 4) compare the artifacts and design processes of KLICK! students with disabilities and their general education peers in the after-school settings. In Year 2, the project will conduct a quantitative study evaluating the effectiveness of KLICK! in raising the performance and motivation to learn of students with disabilities matched in age, gender, ethnicity, and grade level.

Products: Descriptions of the project, position papers, and research reports will be written by the co-principal investigators, and a World Wide Web site containing artifacts will be maintained. Every effort will be made to pursue publication for these written products in vehicles that have wide audiences within the field of education. Investigators will also make every effort to pursue the presentation of findings at national and state conferences in the education field.

Grant Number: H327A020018

Studies to Enhance Online Learning Modules on National Curriculum Standards for Teachers and Secondary Students with Learning Disabilities

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Beginning Date: 9/01/02
Ending Date: 8/31/04

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Purpose: This project involves a collaborative effort among the University of Kansas, Kansas City (Kansas)Public Schools, and ten state Departments of Education across the United States to evaluate, revise, and begin dissemination of four standards-based online modules for teachers and high-school students with learning disabilities, developed as a Phase I project.

Method: The project will work to expand understanding of the effectiveness of these modules to prepare teachers and students with disabilities to better participate in school reform efforts based on national curriculum standards. Project activities will include: 1) pilot the standards-based teacher and student modules with teachers, parents, and students with disabilities associated with the Kansas City School District; 2) validate the evaluation model based on data collected during the Kansas City pilot; 3) revise the standards-based modules under the direction of project staff and a national group of experts serving as a research advisory board; 4) subject the four standards-based modules to a national evaluation involving general and special education teachers as well as secondary students with learning disabilities; and 5) revise the final module based on collected data and suggestions by the research advisory board.

Products: The outcome of this project will be improved online learning modules for instruction of national curriculum standards for general and special education teachers and students with disabilities, to accommodate these learners in instruction and assessment in school reform efforts.

Grant Number: H327A020019

The Development of Software to Ensure Access to Science Text through the Strategic eTutor

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Beginning Date: 8/01/02
Ending Date: 7/01/04

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Purpose: This project will: 1) develop a process for creating a computer-supported learning environment, called "Strategic eTutor," for mastery of content found in high-school biology textbook chapters and associated learning strategies; 2) develop a working model of "Strategic eTutor" that can serve as a prototype for evaluating and demonstrating this process to promote adoption by major textbook publishers; and 3) construct data that will provide initial support for the efficacy of continuing to use the Strategic eTutor to improve learning for high school students with disabilities.

Method: To develop the Strategic eTutor, the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (CRL) and the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) will work together to create an interactive software program for use by students with disabilities in secondary school settings that will support acquisition of text-related science content and strategies. The software will comprise a strategically and electronically enhanced science textbook chapter that will include: 1) a text-to-speech tool that provides access to information for individuals who cannot read adequately, by converting electronic text into audible words; 2) research-validated graphic content organizers and devices designed to enhance content-area learning; 3) prompts and supports for using research-validated learning strategies to facilitate the process of acquiring, storing, expressing, and demonstrating content competence; 4) and an instructional process that scaffolds instruction and provides feedback and support, based on a student's choice, current use of strategies, response patterns, and learning outcomes. Approximately 42 students with disabilities and 80 students without disabilities will be included in the design and evaluation process. Teachers of biology and students with disabilities will be involved in a formative evaluation process that will allow intensive evaluation of content, instructional features, design features, and the completed Strategic eTutor working model.

Products: Such an expert "strategic tutor" can lead students to content mastery tied to standards while teaching the student how to approach learning tasks, develop new learning strategies for comprehending and studying text, and transfer content and strategies to new instructional situations as the student learns to become independent of the tutor. The Strategic eTutor will be hosted as a World Wide Web site, making it possible for a student or teacher to access the textbook chapter and supports from any machine, anywhere, with a Web browser like Internet Explorer, Netscape, Opera or CAST eReader.

Grant Number: H327A020021

PEGS! for Parents: Practice Effective Guidance Strategies: An Animated Interactive CD-ROM for Parents to Guide Children with Difficult-to-Manage Behavior

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Ending Date: 9/30/04

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Purpose: This project will respond to the expressed needs of parents for ways to successfully guide their children who have social-emotional-behavioral disabilities or mental health problems, with or without other disabilities. The project will collaborate with parents to design, field test, and disseminate a trio of interactive CD-ROM programs that offer practical, educationally sound, culturally sensitive information and encourage practice using positive behavior management in a format appropriate for independent adult learning. This project is designed for parents, foster parents, teen parents, grandparents, and informal childcare providers of children from ages 2 years to 16 years.

Method: Project activities will include: 1) produce an interactive CD-ROM simulation using a game format in which parents of children, with or without disabilities, can select child characters similar to their own children's ages, race, and gender; view challenging situations in several home and community settings; choose from 12 behavior management strategies; and view animated changes in children's behavior with feedback about the parents' strategy choices; 2) produce two additional CD-ROM stand-alone interactive tutorials that extend the game content for parents seeking expanded information about positive management strategies and ways to talk with children in crisis situations to foster developmentally appropriate problem-solving skills; 3) conduct ongoing formative evaluations with representative parent groups to determine ease of use, practicality, relevance, and effectiveness for parents; and 4) develop a plan for disseminating product information to parents, parent organizations, schools, and agencies that provide services to families of children with special needs. The content for the project will be drawn from the Developmental Therapy Teaching model, validated by the National Institute of Education's Program Effectiveness Panel as a research-based educational approach for promoting healthy social-emotional development and responsible behavior in troubled children and youth.

Products: When used by parents seeking to improve their skills in managing children's difficult behaviors effectively, the long-term impact of the CD-ROMs can be immense. As a highly transportable, low-cost opportunity for independent adult learning, it is anticipated that the CD-ROM products will reach many parents. As their children mature or as new children are born, fostered, or adopted, parents can reconfigure the CD-ROM to conform to changing family constellations. They can also periodically update their skills independent of a formalized training program. The products will also offer educators a resource for co-training with parents to encourage use of similar behavioral supports at home and school. Such coordinated management of children's difficult or disruptive behavior should result in improved educational outcomes. With training in the same basic strategies used at school, parents can be contributing members of school-based team efforts to provide effective programs for their children.

Grant Number: H327A020023

The Virtual History Museum: Technology Tools and Environments to Support Historical Understanding of Students with Disabilities

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Beginning Date: 8/16/02
Ending Date: 8/15/04

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Purpose: This project will develop a prototype Web-based history learning environment that can promote the historical understanding of all students and offer cognitive supports and mediational tools that will enable full participation and success for students with mild disabilities.

Method: The Virtual History Museum (VHM) will contain five components: 1) an "Exhibit Space" in which historical artifacts will be put on display; 2) an "Analytic Space" in which students will have access to information resources and tools to assist them in analyzing the artifacts on exhibit; 3) an "Interpretation Space" in which students will begin constructing their interpretations of the exhibit with support from literacy-based and historical tools; 4) a "Collaboration Space" where students can collaborate with others about their analyses, interpretations, and final products; and 5) a "Publication Space," in which students publicly communicate their interpretation of the artifacts on display. The VHM will be formatively and summatively evaluated and systematically revised, based on field tests with five teachers and over 100 students with and without disabilities.

Products: The Web-based VHM will include features to support students with disabilities, including text-to-speech capabilities and instruction in specific strategies that can aid historical understanding.

Grant Number: H327A020024

A Software Tutorial for Learning the Nemeth Code of Braille Mathematics Notation for Use by Students Who Read Braille: Phase Two

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Ending Date: 5/31/04

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Purpose: A Software Tutorial for Learning the Nemeth Code of Braille Mathematics Notation for Use by Persons Who Are Blind is a Phase Two two-year project that will determine the effectiveness of the software that was developed in Phase One. In Phase One, the staff of the Research and Development Institute developed software that can be used by blind students to learn to read and write the braille symbols that comprise the braille mathematics code.

Method: The Phase Two effort will evaluate the effectiveness of this technologically sophisticated software in a real-world context. The software tutorial, developed in collaboration with Blazie Engineering, is used by blind middle and high school students to learn the Nemeth code. The tutorial operates on the Braille Lite, a small portable computer which combines synthetic speech and an electronic braille display. Project staff will carry out a detailed evaluation following rigorous methodology. A sample of eight students and their teachers will be randomly chosen to participate as the experimental group. A matching sample will be chosen as the control group. The teachers will be trained in the use of the Braille Lite and the Nemeth Code tutorial. The teachers of the experimental group will begin instructing their students in the use of the Braille Lite. Once the students have mastered its use, the teachers will begin instruction in the use of the Nemeth Code tutorial. Data will be collected at strategic points during the year.

Products: A manual will be developed based on the results. The manual will contain strategies that teachers can use for integrating the tutorial in the regular, ongoing instructional program for blind youngsters. The information will be disseminated widely, with national impact in solving the problem of lack of achievement in mathematics on the part of blind students.

Grant Number: H327A020030

Anchoring Problems in Technology-Rich Environments to Enhance the Math Skills of Adolescents with Disabilities

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Beginning Date: 7/01/02
Ending Date: 6/30/05

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Purpose: This project will investigate the factors that promote or impede the successful implementation of Enhanced Anchored instruction (EAI), a way of using technology to help students with learning disabilities and/or emotional disabilities (LD/ED) develop their computation and problem-solving skills in authentic contexts for learning. The research will assess the effect of EAI on the math achievement and attitudes of students in multiple and complex settings within middle schools, high schools, and alternative secondary schools. In addition, the research will uncover school and community supports that enable interdisciplinary teacher teams to continue sustained use of EAI after this project is completed.

Method: Using a theoretical model of teaching and learning mathematics (the Key Model) as a base, video-based problems are used to situate students' thinking in rich and relevant problem-solving environments. Once students solve the video-based problems, they make use of the understanding they have gained to solve related applied problems. The combination of video-based and applied problems is called Enhanced Anchored Instruction, because the additional practice afforded by using math to build projects such as skateboard ramps and hovercrafts helps students understand the importance and benefit of learning math. EAI helps students create rich mental models, or pictures, of problem contexts, an especially necessary instructional component for students with LD who tend to be poor readers and have difficulty in "picturing" text-based problems. This project will combine the expertise of special education, math, and technology education teachers who plan and teach EAI together. In previous studies, the project has shown how students with LD/ED have matched and, in some instances, surpassed the performance of students without LD/ED on tests that measured their problem-solving achievement. However, several questions still remain. For example, the project has added teaching, learning, and assessment modules to the CD-ROM based on research findings, and the project will evaluate how each tool benefits teachers and students in various instructional settings. The project will also identify specific school and community factors that will sustain the use of EAI over successive years in multiple settings.

Products: The project will use quasi-experimental methods and classroom-community ethnographic descriptions of the program to assess the gains in math achievement attributable to EAI and the contextual factors that contribute to its effective use. These methods, combined with a sound theoretic base, will enable the project to produce a set of findings that can guide implementation and dissemination of EAI in middle schools, high schools, and secondary alternative schools throughout the country. This project will fulfill the promise of learning with technology, not just about technology.

Grant Number: H327A020031

Project SET: Software Evaluation Tool

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Ending Date: 8/31/04

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Purpose: This Phase I project will develop and validate a software evaluation tool for use when selecting software for specific populations of students. The evaluation tool will cover software that is commonly used in special education settings including: 1) instructional software; 2) applications and tools; and 3) multimedia and Internet-based software. Student exceptionality categories will include learning disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disabilities, physical disabilities, and students needing assistive devices to access the technology across disability categories.

Method: The software evaluation tool will be developed using the following procedures: 1) literature review; 2) development of software evaluation tool blueprint; 3) formative item review; 4) one-on-one field test; 5) conversion of the software evaluation tool to html format; 6) an item tryout; 7) a large-scale field test; 8) validation of the tool assessing its construct validity via a factor analysis; and 9) development of final software evaluation tool. The project will be guided by an expert panel, teachers, and parents.

Products: A description of the development and validation process of the software evaluation tool, in the form of a scholarly research manuscript, will be disseminated, as well as the final evaluation tool itself. Avenues of dissemination of the manuscript will include submission to scholarly journals in the field of special education and special education technology. The evaluation product itself will be made available in several forms. First, a World Wide Web site will be created to specifically promote and disseminate the product. The product will also be submitted to the Council for Learning Disabilities for dissemination as an "InfoSheet," which the Council uses to promote research-to-practice ideas in print form and in digital format on its World Wide Web site.

Grant Number: H327A020032

Research on Effectiveness of BASICS (Baby Awareness and Support through Interactive Computer Systems) - Phase 2

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Beginning Date: 12/07/02
Ending Date: 6/30/04

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Purpose: This Phase 2 project will examine the success of Phase 1 of BASICS (Baby Awareness and Support through Interactive Computer Systems). The BASICS Phase 1 project developed an interactive computer system (ICS) that was user-friendly, multilevel, and provided a touch-screen kiosk. The system is used to support families of infants who have a high probability of having a handicapping condition as evidenced by the presence of an established risk.

Method: BASICS effectiveness will be evaluated using parent/consumer focus groups and expert reviews to ensure that project topics are complete and user-friendly. Use of focus groups will allow for formative evaluation using both qualitative and quantitative data-gathering techniques. Also, a matched-randomized, experimental design will be used, with a treatment group of 60 and a control group of 60. Families will be asked to participate if they have an infant residing in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and having an established risk. The ICS system will record the number of times each member uses the system, how long they use the system, and the frequency and duration with which branches are accessed. Dependent measures, using control and treatment group data, will include: 1) number of hospital visits; 2) Parent Stress Scale: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; 3) a bedside observation tool; 4) The Family Needs Survey; 5) Family Resource; and 6) parent satisfaction scale. Additionally, an evaluation of the system will be completed to examine the person-computer interface with open-ended observations and interviews. Functionality of the system will be explored by persons with disabilities and they will be asked to complete survey information including Bug Reports, Content Evaluation Forms, Design Evaluation, and Sibling Reaction Forms.

Products: BASICS will empower parents of infants in the NICU by giving them access to touch-screen computers where they can learn, in simply stated English or Spanish, about their babies' conditions, treatment, and prognosis.

Grant Number: H327A020037

Enhancing Academic Achievement and Transition Outcomes through Technology

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Ending Date: 9/30/04

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Purpose: This project will develop an Achievement Model that will utilize a self-determined approach to transition planning and related academic proficiency. This model will include Web-based curricular materials that motivate students to gain the skills necessary to meet Ohio's academic standards, complete high school, and successfully navigate employment and/or postsecondary settings.

Method: The project will: 1) identify the most effective self-determination, career/transition planning, and learning materials that improve academic performance of students with disabilities; 2) develop an Information Literacy Module that is Web-based, is universally accessible, and provides the skills needed to learn on computers; 3) develop universally designed Web-based and print curricula that integrate self-determination, career/transition planning, and academic/technical skills; 4) develop meaningful opportunities for active parent involvement and peer interactions in the transition planning process; 5) implement and revise the Achievement Model in inclusive high-school classrooms using appropriate assistive technology; and 6) evaluate the effects of the Achievement Model on student academic achievement and career/transition planning.

Products: At the conclusion of this project, there will be a better understanding of what improves the academic achievement and career/transition of students with disabilities so that they can gain the attitudes, skills, and knowledge needed to improve achievement results, pass the high-stake tests that many states require, complete high school, and have the knowledge to succeed in the 21st century. The project will disseminate results and materials through existing national centers, articles, presentations, and Web linkages.

Grant Number: H327A020043

Project AID: Using Technology to Aid in Accommodation Assessments that Inform Decision-Making

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Beginning Date: 9/01/02
Ending Date: 8/31/04

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Purpose: This project will develop and field test a series of accommodations using computer-based testing. The project focuses on the construct validity of mathematics measurement in grades five and eight to answer the question of how a computer-based administration with various accommodations affects the decisions made regarding groups of students with varying needs.

Method: The first year, the project will validate the measurement systems and decisions being made about fifth-grade and eighth-grade students' performance in mathematics. The project will also complete a series of studies in which students with varying needs take the Oregon state test under standard and accommodated conditions. The following accommodations have been targeted, all delivered using computer-based testing administrations: 1) extended time; 2) read aloud in Spanish, English, and American Sign Language; 3) use of situated video or audio alone; and 4) type size and background contrast. Project staff will work closely with the Oregon Department of Education to ensure that the administration is in compliance with the technical specifications of both the Oregon state test and the Technology Enhanced Assessment System. In the second year, the project will work with students to highlight the unique accommodation or combination of accommodations that optimizes their performance. The administration will be field tested using a set of items that are randomly assigned to different accommodation formats. In addition, the project will survey students and teachers about the kind of supports they believe they need and which they think are helpful. The focus in the second year will be on validating the construct of accommodations and the decision basis for recommending them.

Products: The Behavioral Research and Teaching office at the University of Oregon will conduct the dissemination of products in four primary ways: 1) submission of articles to refereed research journals; 2) in-house publications in the form of Research Reports and Monographs; 3) dissemination of research findings at local and national conferences; and 4) a highly interactive World Wide Web page.

Grant Number: H327A020050

Early Childhood Technology Integrated Instructional System (EC-TIIS 2)

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/04

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Purpose: This Phase 2 project will test and further refine the Web-based training developed during Phase 1 of the Early Childhood Technology Integrated Instructional System (EC-TIIS), and will ultimately provide a teaching/learning World Wide Web site that is easy for families and educators to access and use and that contains information leading to improved technology services for young children with disabilities. This project addresses these two elements: improving the results of the education of young children from ages three to eight with disabilities, and improving access to and participation in the general curriculum.

Method: The EC-TIIS Phase 1 project World Wide Web site is a teaching/learning virtual community that combines training content from ideas that work (including those from the Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood's tested and effective early childhood technology-related projects (referred to as Knowledge Base Projects)) into a series of nine workshops designed to provide technology knowledge and skills. Using a mixed methods approach of quantitative and qualitative data, EC-TIIS 2 will be tested by educational staff, families, and preservice students across four groups.

Products: The findings of EC-TIIS Phase 2 will contribute to the development of knowledge and practices used in staff development and personnel preparation related to appropriate early childhood experiences paired with technology practice.

Grant Number: H327A020057

H.I.N.T.S. (Help in Navigating Text Structures): E-Learning for Students with Disabilities, Teachers, and Parents

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Beginning Date: 9/01/02
Ending Date: 8/31/04

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Purpose: Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) will design, test, refine, and disseminate a coordinated set of Web-based e-learning products called HINTS (Help in Navigating Text Structure). HINTS will include two major components: 1) a set of interactive "Tutorials" aimed primarily at students, and 2) a series of "Happenings," online professional development opportunities designed for teachers. The overall goal of this project is to expand students' use of research-based strategies that enhance reading and writing in all content areas.

Method: The primary audience for the "Tutorials" is middle-grade students, especially those with disabilities. The project will engage in product design, testing, and refinement of "Tutorials" and "Happenings" with two groups of participants. Group 1, which will be recruited from EDC technical assistance projects focusing on middle-grades literacy and inclusion of students with disabilities, will have both online support and on-site assistance for using EDC's e-learning products. Group 2, which will be recruited from EDC's larger network of organizations, associations, and districts/schools, will have access to online support only. This differentiated level of support will allow EDC to study factors that facilitate or impede full implementation.

Products: In the "Kids-to-Kids" section of "Tutorials," two young adolescents will guide students through a series of interactive activities. Some will help students analyze the structure of written texts to aid comprehension, while others will help students apply their new understanding of text structure to improve their expository writing. The tutorials will also have customized sections with separate entry points for teachers and parents, so that they too can expand their knowledge and skills and help students use the "Tutorials" effectively. The "Happenings" will be designed as online professional development events for middle-grade teachers across the content areas. Dovetailing with the "Tutorials," the "Happenings" will give teachers the resources and support they need to help their students become more fluent readers and writers.

84.327C
VIDEO DESCRIPTION PROJECTS

Grant Number: H327C010001

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E-mail: Narrative@aol.com
Website: http://www.narrativetv.com

Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will permit Narrative Television Network (NTN) to provide accessible television and movie programming to blind and visually impaired Americans.

Method: NTN will provide video description for Cable in the Classroom educational television programming by utilizing its relationships with Nickelodeon, Discovery Networks, CNN, Weather Channel, and Court TV, and through agreements with TBS, TNT, Lifetime Television for Women, and GoodLife TV. More than 700 hours of new, accessible programming will be aired via national broadcast and cable networks, and videos will be made available through Libraries for the Blind and schools for the blind across the U.S., as well as the Internet.

Products: Through this project, NTN will open the world of educational programming to children and adults, and will allow children who are blind or have low vision to engage in age-appropriate activities that include the watching of television.

Grant Number: H327C010004

Video Description of Television and Film Programs By the Media Access Group at WGBH

Project Director: Apone, Thomas
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Descriptive Video Service (DVS), a service of the Media Access Group at WGBH, will make cable and commercial television programs and films accessible to the U.S.'s 13.5 million people who are blind or visually impaired.

Method: DVS will maintain a significant presence on the basic cable service, Turner Classic Movies (TCM). It will also expand its presence on cable by introducing new partners: Lifetime, a cable network for women;

Nickelodeon, the top-rated children's cable network; and Turner Entertainment Network (TNT) in the first year. DVS also has a firm commitment from Fox broadcasting, one of the four commercial networks. DVS will work with Fox to bring the debut of video description to commercial television. A minimum of 313 hours of programming will be described.

Products: DVS will continue to reach out to blind and visually impaired viewers and those close to the blind community with materials in accessible formats as well as provisions for gathering feedback and evaluation on the program selection, educational value of the programming, methods used for description, etc. DVS will also continue an aggressive campaign in progress to educate the television and film industry about the availability of description and to promote video description to the general television audience.

84.327D

DRAMATIC AND THEATRICAL EXPERIENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Grant Number: H327D000006

Establishing a Deaf National Conservatory of Theatrical Training

Project Director: Waterstreet, Ed
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Beginning Date: 3/01/00
Ending Date: 2/28/05

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
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Purpose: This project will expand theatrical and cultural experiences for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Method: The project will broaden the theatrical and general cultural experiences of deaf and hard of hearing persons in the United States. Working collaboratively with widely acclaimed deaf and hearing actors and artists, Deaf West Theatre Company (DWT) will provide training in drama and theatrical production to actors and artists who are deaf and hard of hearing, in order to cultivate their skills, develop self-esteem and cultural pride, and create a legacy of Deaf culture.

Products: The project will provide outreach activities including professional and technical assistance to regional and local programs through the establishment of a clearinghouse of information and as a provider of technical assistance to deaf theater companies throughout the nation. The project will also produce and promote a series of videotaped performances for distribution and national and regional broadcasting.

Grant Number: H327D010001

Dramatic and Theatrical Experiences for Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Project Director: Goehring, Gerald
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E-mail: goehring@snet.net
Website: http://www.ntd.org

Beginning Date: 2/01/01
Ending Date: 1/31/05

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
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Purpose: This project will focus on providing deaf and hard of hearing individuals with: 1) training in drama and theatrical production; 2) meaningful employment and professional development opportunities through performance in touring productions, demonstrating the artistry and intellect of people who are deaf or hard of hearing to the majority hearing population; 3) outreach activities such as workshops, lectures, classes, and residencies that teach the skills of tolerance and respect necessary to bridge gaps between hearing and Deaf cultures; and 4) video production which preserves archival footage for historical purposes and opens pathways to new audiences through video sales.

Method: Specific National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) activities will include, in addition to the theatrical productions, training programs designed specifically for deaf and hard of hearing artists, managers, administrators, teachers, and students, such as the Professional Training School and Professional Training School, Jr. During production tours, the actors will offer students, educators, and other interested individuals workshops, lectures, and other opportunities to experience theatre arts. NTD will operate a Professional Theatre Program each summer, which will train 30 artists in acting and theatre-related disciplines.

Products: In addition to the training and outreach programs mentioned previously, during each of the five years of the project period, the Theatre will produce at least three touring productions which will serve an audience of Deaf and hearing children and adults in venues as diverse as libraries, theatres, classrooms, school auditoriums and cafeterias, parks, and community centers. The productions will be presented approximately 140 times to an audience of about 55,000. NTD will videotape at least one production per year for later use on television or through duplicated cassettes. NTD will also develop a Web site.

84.327E
ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Grant Number: H327E010001

Accessible Educational TV — Narrative Television Network

Project Director: Stovall, Jim
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Website: http://www.narrativetv.com

Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will continue the Narrative Television Network's (NTN) Accessible Educational TV project through which accessible television and movie programming are provided to blind and visually impaired Americans. Currently, NTN includes over 1,200 broadcast and cable affiliates reaching over 35 million homes in the United States, providing accessible media to blind and visually impaired individuals via broadcast, satellite, and cable television; video and audio tapes; live theater and museum exhibits; and the Internet.

Method: Through this project, NTN will provide video description for 300 hours of newly accessible, widely available, noncommercial, educational, and instructional television programming approved for broadcast to more than 43 million students nationwide on Cable in the Classroom. In order to shrink the gap between captioned and described TV, NTN will narrate programming that, for the most part, has already been captioned, and NTN will cover any costs to caption programming that has not been previously captioned.

Products: This project is seen as a critical step in NTN's effort to provide educational parity in the classroom, and to allow children who are blind or have low vision to have access to the same educational programming as children with hearing impairments and to engage in age-appropriate activities that include the watching of television. Educational videos with narratives added during this project will be made available to library patrons, educational facilities, institutions for the aged, and organizations that serve children and adults with disabilities. Some of the programming will also be made available on demand and free of charge at NTN's Web site and will also be distributed to schools for the blind nationwide.

Grant Number: H327E010003

Accessible Educational TV: Animal Planet (Mother Nature, Zoo Venture)

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Under this project, VITAC will caption and describe a variety of educational programming available to national TV audiences and to schools, reaching students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing as well as those who are blind.

Method: The project will assure the quality captioning and video description of approximately 192 hours of televised educational programming on the Animal Planet Network over the three year grant and will expand private-sector support for such programming by using federal funds as an inducement to increase funding support from program producers.

Products: After captioning the television programs, VITAC will disseminate information about these programs via its newsletter and press announcements in publications aimed at the deaf community and television industry. A new alliance with media networks will identify those media outlets and radio programs that reach blind and visually impaired viewers to disseminate information about its work.

Grant Number: H327E010005

Accessible Educational TV by the Media Access Group at WGBH

Project Director: Miller, Ira
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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E-mail: joann.mccann@ed.gov

Purpose: Through this project, WGBH will caption and describe nationally distributed instructional television through the Cable in the Classroom program, which serves 44 million students across the country. The project will also allow The Media Access Group at WGBH to continue to caption educational television programs for school use.

Method: WGBH will reach out to deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, and visually impaired students as well as teachers and parents to gather feedback and evaluation on the program selection, educational value of the programming, and methods used for captioning, description, and outreach processes. This feedback will be used to improve services.

Products: In the first year of the project, 43 hours of educational programming will be audio described and 12 hours of programming will be captioned. Descriptions will be added to programs already being captioned by the Media Access Group.

Grant Number: H327E010006

Accessible Educational TV #2

Project Director: Duckler, Max S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide accessible, educational, commercial-free programming suitable for classroom use, bringing nationally distributed offline captioning and video description to deaf and blind students, parents, and teachers throughout the country.

Method: Programs to be captioned and described by this project will be provided by the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) and will cross all areas of study, from science to literature, and all grade levels from K-12, and will also include programming for adult learning and general audiences. Court TV will provide programs for captioning and description that are used in their public affairs and Cable in the Classroom initiatives. Other programs will address social issues and choices confronting young people in today's world. All programs slated for captioning and description will be licensed for classroom use.

Products: The project will achieve wide distribution of programs through NETA and Court TV. NETA programs, for instance, reach 98% of all U.S. households, and Court TV reaches 80 million homes and 85% of all classrooms. The project will caption and describe 100 half-hour programs of commercial-free, educational programming.

Grant Number: H327E010007

Accessible Educational TV #1

Project Director: Duckler, Max S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will bring nationally distributed, offline captioning and video description of accessible, educational, commercial-free programming suitable for classroom use to deaf and blind students, parents, and teachers throughout the country.

Method: Programs to be captioned and described by this project will be provided by the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) and will cross all areas of study, from science to literature, and all grade levels from K-12, and will also include programming for adult learning and general audiences. All programs slated for captioning and description will be licensed for classroom use. Most programs are curriculum-based and supported by teacher guides and materials.

Products: This project will achieve the widest possible distribution for captioned and described NETA programs. NETA programs are distributed to over 98 percent of all television households in all states. During the three years of this project, CaptionMax will caption and describe 70 half-hours of NETA programming.

Grant Number: H327E010009

Accessible Educational TV

Project Director: Nubbe, Beth S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, the National Captioning Institute (NCI), working with the Narrative Television Network (NTN), will collaborate to provide captioning and video description of half-hour educational television programs.

Method: One of the programs to be captioned and described in the project, "Standard Deviants," is an award-winning half-hour educational show, available on broadcast television and cable, that focuses on topics ranging from Shakespeare to foreign languages to computer skills. The other show to be captioned and described is "Clifford the Big Red Dog," also broadcast and available on cable, which is targeted to children ages 3 to 7 and is designed to convey lessons about living and working with others in the community. These two programs will reach a wide and diverse audience of young children and teens, particularly older teens.

Products: The project will ensure that a wide range of educational programs is captioned and described for children of all ages. In total, this project will offer 38.5 hours of educational programming to over 43 million youth. The commercial-free programs captioned and described by this project will be licensed for classroom use and can be used without the need for additional caption reformatting or additional description.

84.327G

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON THE USE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

Grant Number: H327G000004

University of Kentucky Assistive Technology Research Institute

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: Jane Hauser
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Purpose: This project has two major goals: 1) to examine factors related to the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of assistive technology (AT) services in schools, and 2) to disseminate the findings of the research in ways that will assist school personnel to develop or improve AT policies and practices for students with disabilities.

Method: To meet these two goals, research questions will be answered via a series of studies that will be performed on the following topics: 1) the status of AT use in K-12 schools and the role that AT provides in the education of students with disabilities; 2) the policies, procedures, and resources that school districts use to develop and deliver AT services to their students; 3) the ways that AT decisions are made by teams of people who develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students enrolled in special education programs; 4) the training and technical support that is needed by individuals who are involved with planning and implementing the use of AT devices and services with students; 5) the integration of AT into learning environments and the ways that AT devices and services are used to facilitate instruction and access to the curriculum; 6) the effect that the use of AT devices and services have on the academic, social, and functional performance of students who use them; and 7) the extent to which institutions of higher education are developing AT knowledge and skills in those who are preparing for professional positions in schools. A variety of research designs will be used to obtain data to answer the research questions in each of the above areas. Studies will include national surveys of AT practices of state departments of education, school districts, special education teachers, and institutions of higher education. Case studies will be conducted at benchmark school districts to identify AT promising practices. AT quality indicators will be validated and used as criteria for evaluating AT practices. Interviews and observational studies will be used to examine how AT is being considered when developing IEPs and the ways that professionals and parents interact during that planning process. Interactive research will be conducted via the World Wide Web to identify critical incidents concerning effective and ineffective applications of AT devices and services and to obtain feedback about AT policy options that are identified as a result of policy analysis research that will be conducted. The AT knowledge and skills needed by special education teachers and related services personnel also will be identified and validated.

Products: In addition to conventional research articles that will be submitted to professional journals, a number of products that have practical implications for implementing AT practices will be generated as a result of the research, such as policy guidelines, forms and instruments to support various AT activities, reports of best practices, AT self-assessment instruments for professionals, and templates for designing and implementing components of AT programs, among others. An accessible, user-friendly World Wide Web site also will be used to report ongoing AT research results, recommendations, and resources. Special interpretive reports that will translate the research results into implications for practice also will be prepared for dissemination. A national symposium and a national interactive teleconference will be conducted to further disseminate results of the research during the dissemination phase of the project.

84.327H
RESEARCH ON EDUCATIONAL CAPTIONING

Grant Number: H327H000002

The Relation Between Eye Movement and Reading Captions and Print by School-Age Deaf Children

Project Director: Jensema, Carl
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Beginning Date: 9/01/00
Ending Date: 8/31/03

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Purpose: This research explores how the eye movement patterns of deaf children relate to their skill in reading both captions and printed text, and whether caption reading habits (viewing frequency, type of program, etc.) relate to eye movement and printed text reading skills.

Method: The study will be conducted at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD), a large school for deaf students who are from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. A sample of 100 WPSD students will be selected to participate. Data will be collected from the subjects, their school records, their teachers, and their parents. Each year for three years, the project will collect data related to eye movement and reading skills from the same group of students. SAT-HI (Stanford Achievement Test - Hearing Impaired Edition) is routinely given to WPSD students and their scores are available in the school records. The project will supplement the SAT-HI scores with other tests such as the TERA (Test of Early Reading Ability - Deaf or Hard of Hearing) and the Gray Oral Reading Test-III to help evaluate reading ability. TERA is an appropriate test for deaf children ages 3 years and up, and it focuses on the construction of meaning from print, knowledge of the alphabet and its functions, and understanding of the conventions involved in written language. The Gray Oral Reading Test will assess reading rate, accuracy, and passage comprehension. The subjects will also be surveyed to determine what programs they normally view, and then a sampling of material from such programs will be recorded off the air. The survey will evaluate both caption reading skills and skills in reading information printed on paper. The project will develop its own custom video materials by writing a script and then shooting a video for the script. The video material will be edited and used to make appropriate materials for evaluating both eye movement and program comprehension. The data collected will be entered into computer files and analyzed using StatView, Excel, and several custom-written graphics programs.

Products: Formal reports and journal articles will be developed and disseminated. The project will send reports to an in-house mailing list of caption agencies and colleagues who are interested in captioning research. Presentations at professional conventions will be made.

Grant Number: H327H000003

Research on Edited Captions for Deaf Children

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Beginning Date: 1/01/01
Ending Date: 12/31/03

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Purpose: This project is a collaboration between the CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media at the WGBH Educational Foundation and researchers at Ohio State University to investigate comprehension differences when deaf and hard-of-hearing children watch videos with edited captions versus near-verbatim captions.

Method: The project will evaluate effects of edited captions—captions with a slower presentation rate and modified language—on comprehension. For many deaf children, reading is a frustrating experience, and reading captions is challenging. The goal of edited captions is to help children who are not fluent readers have greater success reading captions and understanding a program. The research questions are: 1) Is there a difference in children's comprehension scores between the near-verbatim and edited videos?; 2) Is there an effect due to the type of assessment used?; and 3) What are the children's preferences and attitudes with respect to the captioned programs in the study and to captioned media in general?. The study will use "Arthur," an Emmy-award winning and extremely popular children's program on public television. The project will use the existing "Arthur" programs, developing 16 videotapes for the study, half of the videos edited and half using the original near-verbatim captions. The project will set up after-school "Arthur" Clubs at eight New England schools, involving a total of 38 children. Participating children will be between 7 and 11 years old and must read at a 2.0 reading level or higher. During each session, children will watch an "Arthur" program with either edited or near-verbatim captions, and an examiner will assess each child on his or her comprehension of the story. There will be two types of assessments—one known as QAR, question-answer relationships, and the other a Retell format—to reduce the possibility of the assessment influencing comprehension scores. Approximately three-quarters of the students will be part of a group design and the remaining students will be part of a single-subject design. Both the caption condition (edited or near-verbatim) and the assessment (QAR and retell) will be randomized. To gather qualitative information about children's attitudes towards captioned media, the project will set up a video lending library and ask students about their reasons for choosing particular programs (which will include both near-verbatim and edited tapes).

Products: This project will contribute significantly to knowledge on reading captions and comprehension. If the research results support the project's hypothesis, this research would argue for a second stream of captions on selected children's television programs, in addition to the original "near-verbatim" captions. Media with edited captions could be a new source of age-appropriate materials that have text which matches children's reading abilities.

84.327J
VIDEO DESCRIPTION PROJECTS

Grant Number: H327J000001

Narrative Television Network: Broadcast & Cable

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, Narrative Television Network (NTN) will continue to provide accessible television and movie programming to blind and visually impaired Americans.

Method: NTN has grown to include over 1,200 broadcast and cable affiliates reaching over 35 million homes in the United States. NTN provides accessible media to blind and visually impaired children and adults via broadcast, cable, and satellite television, home video and audio tapes, live theatre, and museum exhibits. Through NarrativeTV.com, accessible educational and entertainment programming is available to all visually impaired Americans 24-hours-a-day, on-demand, free-of-charge, via the World Wide Web.

Products: This project will allow NTN: 1) to produce over 200 additional hours of accessible programming; 2) to maintain the services of its Audience and Industry Relations Manager; and 3) to maintain accessible Program Guides in large print, Braille, and recorded formats.

Grant Number: H327J000002

Video Description: NTN Home Video & Web

Project Director: Stovall, Jim
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Narrative Television Network (NTN) will provide accessible media to blind and visually impaired children and adults via broadcast, cable, and satellite television; home video; audio tapes; live theatre; museum exhibits; and free-of-charge, on-demand, 24-hours-a-day access via the Web at NarrativeTV.com.

Method: NTN will continue its home video work by producing and distributing 150 hours of narrated television, movie, and educational programming via home video as a free service to libraries, schools for the blind, organizations that serve visually impaired people, and NarrativeTV.com. NTN will continue its relationships and programming agreements with Viacom, King World, Four Star, Nostalgia Television, MCA Universal, Fox Television, and World Vision Enterprises, and will narrate educational programming from National Geographic Television, Classic Arts Showcase, and American Independent Network. NTN also will narrate educational programming through its new relationship with "Cable in the Classroom," which involves such cable networks as Discovery Channel, Nickelodeon, the Weather Channel, Court TV, and CNN.

Products: The project will produce 150 hours of video description to serve individuals with blindness or visual impairments.

Grant Number: H327J000004

Video Description: Children's Programs on Public, Cable, and Commercial Television Networks by Descriptive Video Service

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: WGBH's Descriptive Video Service (DVS) will make public, cable, and commercial television programs accessible to the nation's blind and visually impaired children as well as other viewers who benefit from described children's programming.

Method: Narrated descriptions, depicting visual elements such as actions, settings, body language, and graphics of key visuals will be carefully crafted to fit into natural pauses in a program's dialogue, and will be accessible by selecting the Second Audio Program feature, standard on most stereo televisions and videocassette recorders. DVS will maintain a significant presence on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and basic cable service, Turner Classic Movies (TCM). It will also introduce new cable partners, Nickelodeon and Toon Disney, in the first and second years respectively. DVS will continue to foster relationships with the major commercial networks and work with them to bring the debut of video description to commercial television. DVS will continue to reach out to blind and visually impaired children and their parents with materials in accessible formats as well as provisions for gathering feedback and evaluation. DVS will expand upon an aggressive campaign already in progress to educate the television and film industry about the availability of description and to promote video description to the general television audience. Private foundation support will be sought to supplement the activities in this project. DVS also will continue to encourage television producers and funders of children's programming to include video description in their budgets, emulating a new policy at WGBH requiring description in national production budgets.

Products: A minimum of 180 program hours for children will be described, and advocacy for video description will be enhanced.

Grant Number: H327J000005

Video Description of Television Programs for Adults

Project Director: Apone, Thomas
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: WGBH's Descriptive Video Service (DVS) will make public, cable, and commercial television programs accessible to the nation's 13.5 million people who are blind and visually impaired.

Method: Narrated descriptions, depicting visual elements such as actions, settings, body language, and graphics of key visuals will be carefully crafted to fit into natural pauses in a program's dialogue. This description is received by selecting the Second Audio Program feature, standard on most stereo televisions and videocassette recorders. DVS will maintain a significant presence on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and basic cable service, Turner Classic Movies (TCM). It will also expand its presence by introducing a new cable partner, A&E, in the first year. DVS will continue to foster relationships with the major commercial networks and work with them to bring a debut of video description to commercial television. DVS will reach out to blind and visually impaired viewers with materials in accessible formats as well as provisions for gathering feedback and evaluation. DVS will expand upon an aggressive campaign already in progress to educate the television and film industry about the availability of description and to promote video description to the general television audience. Private foundation support will be sought to supplement the activities in this project. DVS also will continue to encourage television producers and funders of adult programming to include video description in their budgets.

Products: A minimum of 180 hours of programming aimed at an adult audience will be described, and advocacy for video description on behalf of individuals with blindness or visual impairments will be enhanced.

84.327K

ACCESSIBLE MEDIA FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS & PRINT DISABILITIES

Grant Number: H327K010002

Accessible Media for Students with Visual Impairments and Print Disabilities

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

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Purpose: This project of Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) will research, design, and construct an accessible library of digital textbooks for people with print disabilities. After production of these textbooks, the project will begin a broad-scale distribution of content in digital formats on CD-ROM and over the Internet.

Method: The project will identify, through market research or member request, the titles of textbooks to be recorded on analog tape, which will then be transferred to digital media. Incorporating elements of universal design, these digital textbooks will offer flexibility and accessibility to promote greater inclusion and independent learning for students with print disabilities. Students can listen to digital audio texts in a variety of ways and in a variety of locations by using school-based networks and downloading as needed. They can also navigate the materials more easily and control playback speed and content.

Products: A limited release of digital audio textbooks will take place in the first year of the project and will be shortly followed by a broad-scale distribution of over 3,000 CD-ROMs of the most frequently requested texts. This is expected to double in the next year. Parallel to this will be the development of a virtual community on the Internet that will allow schools to order and download content, training, and support. RFB&D will actively promote its new digital services within the education, disability, publishing, and library communities and in the general media.

84.327L
TELEVISION ACCESS

Grant Number: H327L020003

Live, Real-Time Closed Captioning of News, Public Affairs, Informational, and Educational Programming for Portland, OR; Denver, CO; Minneapolis, MN; and San Antonio, TX

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will make live news and public affair programs accessible to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, by captioning about 2,000 program hours per year in various target cities.

Method: Target cities are Portland, Oregon; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Denver Colorado; and San Antonio, Texas. They all have significant populations of people with hearing loss and/or who speak a language other than English at home. By captioning news, information, and local government proceedings, and by building relationships with local consumers, the project can deliver the best quality captions and create awareness, support, and commitment to closed captioning in the community.

Products: The project will caption: KPTV-12 Portland, Oregon - 10 p.m. news; KDTV-12 Denver, Colorado - Denver City Council; KSTP-Minneapolis - 10 p.m. news; KSAT - San Antonio News and Local Sports; Oregon Public Broadcasting ArtBeat and Oregon Field Guide; and Oregon Legislature.

Grant Number: H327L020004

WIS-CAP: Expanding Real Time Broadcast Captioning in Wisconsin

Project Director: Toepper, Lorin K.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will increase the quantity and quality of captioned television news and public information programs available in Wisconsin over the next three years.

Method: Through a consumer advisory group, the project will identify the most valued local news and information programs relevant to deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Wisconsin. By subsidizing captioning of local news and information programs and using local captioners where possible, the project will rapidly increase the number and captioning quality of captioned local news and information programs on air throughout the state. It will also rapidly increase the number of work-ready trained real-time broadcast captioners in Wisconsin through expansion of the Broadcast Captioning and Court Reporting program at Madison Area Technical College. At least 540 hours of live captioned broadcasts and 60 hours of captioned offline programming will be scheduled each year of the grant.

Products: This project will enhance the abilities of Wisconsin deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers to gain access to programming they value. Through its efforts, Wisconsin broadcasters will be able to "ramp up" to Federal Communications Commission mandates coming online in 2006, and broadcast captioning students will be able to obtain "real world" experiences, allowing them to move forward rapidly into their chosen professions from student status.

Grant Number: H327L020005

Closed Caption National News and Public Information Programming

Project Director: Spellman III, John
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The Caption Center, a service of the Media Access Group at WGBH, will make news and public information television programs accessible to the nation's 28 million people who are deaf and hard of hearing. This project will reflect program choices of viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing and will utilize the highest-quality captioning standards and professional experience.

Method: Each year of the project, 1,000 hours of freely available public and commercial television programming will be captioned. The project will: 1) continue equitable allocation of uninterrupted captioning coverage of news and public information programming on CBS and PBS, 2) continue to set quality and service standards for audiences and the captioning industry, 3) secure private-sector funding for at least 50 percent of the cost of captioning all programming, 5) play a leadership role in new technologies, 6) seek Consumer Advisory Group approval on all programs, and 7) promote the project and the captioned programs to viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as to other users of captioning such as the elderly, learners of English as a second language, and children and adults working to acquire literacy skills. The project will address the diverse interests and program choices of many different viewers through a wide selection of news programming, including business news, political programs, and the human interest and hard news provided by daily national news broadcasts. Specifically, the project will caption "CBS Evening News," "48 Hours," "60 Minutes II," "Face the Nation," "Lehrer NewsHour," "Nightly Business Report" on PBS, "Morning Business Report" on PBS, "Now with Bill Moyers," and 46 hours of news specials and emergency coverage.

Products: This project will continue accessible educational and informational television programming on behalf of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and will further increase the awareness of captioning to the general public.

Grant Number: H327L020006

Accessible Local News and Public Information Programs — WROC

Project Director: Finkelstein, Karen
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute (NCI) will complete closed captioning of approximately 2,886 hours of WROC-TV's local news and public information television programming over the three years of this project. By captioning these programs, WROC-TV will expand the range of news and public affairs programming accessible to Rochester, New York's deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

Method: The TV station will install two dedicated telephone lines to enable NCI's captioners to receive the audio of each program and feed the resulting caption data to WROC's smart encoder for transmission with the programs. The programs for captioning will include: 1) "Sunrise Live," airing Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 a.m.; 2) "News 8 at Noon," airing Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.; 3) "News 8 at Five," airing Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.; and 4) "News 8 Tonight," airing Sunday through Saturday from 11:00 to 11:30 p.m.

Products: The programming mix selected for real-time captioning under this project reflects a variety of WROC-TV news and public information programs to address the diverse interests of the viewing audience for news coverage throughout the day.

Grant Number: H327L020008

Accessible Children's Television Programs: Captioning and Description of Children's Programming Provided by the Media Access Group at WGBH

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The Media Access Group at WGBH will caption and describe children's television programming that is distributed nationally through the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and Nickelodeon networks.

Method: The Media Access Group (MAG) service departments, Descriptive Video Service and The Caption Center, will describe 124 hours of programming and caption 58 hours in the first year of the project. MAG will continue captioning Nickelodeon's "Rugrats," among others. This Emmy-award-winning show continues to be one of Nickelodeon's top-rated programs. MAG will also expand accessibility on PBS's "Barney and Friends" and "Angelina Ballerina" by both captioning and describing these series. "Barney" is designed for a preschool audience and assists in developing thinking and social skills, while "Angelina Ballerina" is targeted to three-to-seven year olds and teaches life lessons and positive values. An additional objective of this project is to continue to reach out to children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired, as well as their teachers and parents, to gather feedback and evaluation, and through the project's consumer advisory group, to obtain approval and input on the program selection, educational value of the programming, and methods used for and quality of the captioning and description. Such feedback will be used to improve the captioning, description and outreach processes.

Products: This project will serve approximately 1.6 million children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired and millions of adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired who share and enjoy television viewing with their children. The project will provide accessible educational media and will increase the awareness of these services by educators, parents, and the general public.

Grant Number: H327L020009

Real-time Captioning Local News — WTVT Tampa

Project Director: Pettinato, Richard
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time captioning of over 1,000 hours of news programming on WTVT, Tampa, Florida, substantially increasing the real-time captioning of news by the stenographic method and developing the captioning resources in the region.

Method: Through this project, the more than 1.6 million viewers on the West Coast of Florida will have high-quality captioning of WTVT's news programs three times daily. Captioning will be done using the real-time stenographic method. A consumer advisory board will provide feedback on consumer preferences and advice on refining and improving the captioning done by the project.

Products: The project will assure real-time closed-captioned access for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers of the local news, to enable them to be kept well informed about their community and the events that impact on the public health, welfare, and safety.

Grant Number: H327L020010

Accessible Children's Television Programs

Project Director: Nubbe, Beth S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, the National Captioning Institute (NCI) will work with several children's television networks and companies to complete closed captioning and video description of over 490 hours of children's television programming over a three-year period. Studies have shown that adding closed captions and video descriptions can make children's programming educational for those students with disabilities or difficulties with language.

Method: This project will work directly with five networks and producers to caption and describe children's educational programming over a three-year period. For each year of the project, approximately 160 hours of children's educational programs will be made accessible, for a total of 490 hours. The NCI will use an advisory board of people with hearing and visual disabilities to help select and approve the mix of children's television programming to be captioned and described.

Products: By providing captioning and description, the five networks and producers involved in this project will expand the range of programming accessible to children and young adults nationwide who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision, to give them an equal playing field by enabling them to benefit from access to programs that are both educational and popular with their peers.

Grant Number: H327L020012

Caption Colorado — Southeast Market Area

Project Director: Suppes, Kurt
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Caption Colorado will provide real-time captioning to underserved, smaller Florida communities for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. The captioning will be provided for newscast information that has not been scripted and captioned beforehand, such as breaking news/live shots, sports, and weather, all important, yet not available to the deaf or hard-of-hearing communities.

Method: Captioners working on the project will ensure that emergent information or breaking news will air within ten minutes following notification. The captioning application can be readily accomplished through Internet and multimedia presentation. In order to serve the greatest number of groups in the targeted area under this project, Caption Colorado will focus on creating a choice of news/media outlets for deaf or hard-of-hearing viewers in the area. One intended benefit is that each of the TV stations will begin to understand the need for captioning and will work to provide this service for all of its news programming.

Products: As part of its marketing program, the project will provide supplemental sales training and support to the television stations in the target area in order for them to have the greatest chance of access to underwrite additional real-time captioning. Overall, the real-time captioning that will be provided by this project will allow individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to access news, entertainment, and information, enabling them to be part of the cultural mainstream of U.S. society.

Grant Number: H327L020013

Television Access — Narrative Television Network's Total Accessible TV

Project Director: Stovall, Jim
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The Narrative Television Network (NTN) Total Accessible TV project will enable NTN to work with its network partners and Captioning Coalition members to audio describe and caption more than 500 hours of new educational programming over the three-year project.

Method: NTN has programming agreements with networks and distributors including PBS, GoodLife Television, VCI Entertainment, and SCOLA (Satellite Communications for Learning) to video describe, caption, and distribute educational, news, and informational programming for children and young adults. To support the needs of this project, NTN will hire a studio technical coordinator and a part-time tape librarian.

Products: The entire 500 hours of programming represent new additional accessible programming that NTN's network, programming, and distribution partners are not required to make accessible, but see the validity in serving the unique and growing audience of children and young adults who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, or visually impaired.

Grant Number: H327L020015

Closed Captioned Television News and Public Information — WISH- TV, Indianapolis, Indiana

Project Director: Shedd, Tammie A.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
Voice: 202-205-8475
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Purpose: Visual Audio Captioning (VAC) will provide real-time captions for local news and public information programs in the Indianapolis, Indiana, area.

Method: The following news and public programs will have real-time captions: 1) "Daybreak" (Monday-Friday, 5-7 a.m.); 2) "Daybreak Weekend" (Saturday and Sunday, 6-9 a.m.); 3) "News-8 at 6" (Saturday and Sunday, 6-7 p.m.); 4) "News-8 at 11/Sportslocker" (Saturday and Sunday, 11 p.m.-12 midnight). Real-time captioning will also be provided for 25 annual hours of specials, including nine hours of severe weather coverage, six hours of live breaking news, an one-hour NCAA basketball special, a three-hour mini-marathon, a two-hour Indy 500 Victory Banquet, a two-hour 500 Festival Parade, and two hours of "Patty!" specials. The project will train real-time captioners, which will increase the capacity of the television captioning industry to respond to demands for accurate real-time captioning. The project will involve individuals with disabilities in its planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Products: This project will improve the quality of life for the deaf and hard of hearing by providing daily hours of captioned local news and public information.

Grant Number: H327L020022

Closed Captioned Local News and Public Information on KATV and W*USA TV

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time captioning for newscasts on the television stations KATV in Arkansas and W*USA in Washington, D.C. Over 1,190 hours of news programs will be captioned each year.

Method: The project will allow Visual Audio Captioning to increase real-time captioning of news programs through partnerships with the stations where the captioning will be done. A combination of client and consumer input, production management efforts, and technical support will provide the project with continuous feedback regarding its captioning.

Products: This project will improve the quality of life for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in the viewing areas by providing increased hours of captioned local news and public information every day.

Grant Number: H327L020025

Real Time Captioning in Underserved Communities — Television Access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Project Director: Carter, Lorraine
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will increase the capacity of the local television industry to respond to demands for accurate real-time captioning by providing captioning and other technical assistance to Channel 2 in the United States Virgin Islands.

Method: The project will provide nine hours weekly of captioning for local news and public information programming. Programs include a local news, weather, and sports show aired each weekday morning, and an hourly talk show aired from 5-6 p.m. each Monday through Thursday.

Products: The project will increase exposure to news and local public information for the underserved deaf and hard-of-hearing community and increase sponsorship opportunities for future captioning.

Grant Number: H327L020027

Local News Programming - KATV, Little Rock, Arkansas

Project Director: Shedd, Tammie A.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Visual Audio Captioning (VAC) will provide real-time captions for KATV's Newscasts, to provide access to local news programming for individuals in Arkansas who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Method: KATV's newscasts that will receive real-time captions are the following: 1) 9-10 a.m. Monday-Friday; 2) 5-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and Sunday; 3) 6-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 4) 10-10:35 p.m. Monday-Sunday; 5) 7-9 a.m. Saturday; and 7) 26 episodes annually of "SportsWeek," airing 10:35-11:05 p.m. Sunday. These captions will reach 653,300 households in the state of Arkansas. VAC will train real-time captioners independently and cooperatively through the National Court Reporters Association. Captioners trained to specifically caption KATV programming will be available to the entire captioning industry.

Products: The project will improve the quality of life for the deaf and hard of hearing by providing daily hours of captioned local news and public information. The project will also increase the capacity of the television captioning industry to respond to demands for accurate real-time captioning.

Grant Number: H327L020028

Accessible Spanish Language Programs

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will allow the National Captioning Institute (NCI) to collaborate with "CNN en Espanol" to provide over 670 hours of closed-captioned Spanish-language programming over a three-year period.

Method: "CNN en Espanol" will provide five Spanish-language television programs for captioning: Panorama Mundial con Jorge Gestoso, which covers international news and analysis; El Mundo Informa, news and lifestyle reporting; Adelantos, science and technology reports; Consulta Medica, news and features on personal health and fitness; and Destinos, spotlighting global travel information. For each year of the project, over 223 hours of programming will be captioned, for a total of over 670 hours over the three years. Accurate and efficient captioning in closed- and real-time formats will be provided in Spanish. NCI has a consumer advisory group to determine the preference of consumers for particular programs and to identify important issues relating to captioning.

Products: NCI's proposal for captioning programming on "CNN en Espanol" will benefit people who are deaf or hard of hearing by increasing their access to the same programming that the vast majority of Americans rely on for knowledge and understanding of current events.

Grant Number: H327L020029

Local News Real-time Captioning: KGTV San Diego

Project Director: Hansel, Michael
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide accurate, high-quality real-time captioning to deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers in southern California, to give them access to news programs and public information on television.

Method: Using the stenographic method of captioning, CaptionMax will provide real-time captioning for over 2,260 hours of local news and public information programs on KGTV in San Diego. The project will gather a team of experienced real-time caption writers in the channel's viewing area. Both the caption writers and station personnel will be able to watch the actual broadcast and monitor the captions, resulting in a much higher quality product.

Products: The project is founded on the belief that it is every individual's right to access all programming, and it has built a solid reputation for high-quality real-time closed captioning on a national level. This project will allow it to bring vital live local news and public information to deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the San Diego area. To ensure that this population is made aware of the captioned news programs, both KGTV and CaptionMax will disseminate press releases to viewers in the area and to trade magazines and major local newspapers, as well as to national and state deaf organizations.

Grant Number: H327L020030

Real-time Closed Captioning of Local News on WFTV, Orlando, Florida

Project Director: Kaufman, Aaron
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time stenographic captioning of news programming on WFTV in Orlando, Florida.

Method: The project will expand the captioning of local news programming to 650 hours per year, assuring that deaf or hard-of-hearing viewers in the area will have access to in-depth news coverage, live breaking news, and specialized daily reports on business, finance, medicine, and science. The captioning will use the real-time stenographic method of captioning. A consumer advisory board will provide feedback on consumer preferences and offer advise regarding methods for improving and refining the captioning done by the project.

Products: This project will enable deaf or hard-of-hearing viewers to be kept well informed about their community and events that impact on the public health, welfare, and safety.

Grant Number: H327L020032

Realtime Closed Captioning of WOOD-TV Local Newscasts

Project Director: Schuster, Deborah
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Closed Captioning Services, Inc. (CCS) will continue and expand significantly its real-time closed captioning services in the Grand Rapids, Michigan market.

Method: CCS captions WOOD-TV's weekday 5-6:30 p.m. newscasts and its 11-11:30 p.m. weekday newscasts. CCS will continue captioning these newscasts and will add captioning to WOOD-TV's two morning newscasts at 5 and 6 a.m. — a total of 1,040 hours per year. This plan will double the amount of real-time local news available from this station. CCS has assembled a consumer advisory group comprised of prominent consumers, educators, and parents who have agreed to provide input on an ongoing basis.

Products: CCS will provide WOOD-TV caption viewers with real-time captioned morning news broadcasts for the first time. This project will ensure that hearing-impaired viewers will be further mainstreamed into society by having access to all the information that local news broadcasters provide in their communities.

Grant Number: H327L020034

Television Access —Narrative Television Network's Accessible Educational TV

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

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Purpose: This Narrative Television Network (NTN) Accessible Educational TV project will provide accessible television and movie programming to Americans who are blind or deaf or have vision or hearing impairments.

Method: NTN has programming agreements with such networks as Lifetime Television, TNT, TBS, and PBS. These networks represent not only networks required to meet the FCC's video description mandate, but also networks not under the mandate that are willing to expand their service to the community of Americans who have vision and hearing impairments. This project will allow NTN to hire an accessibility coordinator, a description coordinator, and a caption coordinator, as well as student interns to assure that children with vision and hearing loss have access to the highest quality educational programming available.

Products: NTN and its Captioning Coalition will provide video description and captioning for 400 hours of widely available, educational, news, and informational programming for children—including programs suitable for young adults.

Grant Number: H327L020035

Accessible Local News and Public Information Programs — WOKR

Project Director: Finkelstein, Karen
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute (NCI) in collaboration with WOKR-TV in Rochester, New York, will complete closed captioning of approximately 3,348 hours of local news and public information television programming over the three-year period of the project.

Method: By adding one new program and additional hours to another already captioned, WOKR-TV will expand on a full range of news and public affairs programming accessible to Rochester's deaf and hard-of-hearing population. WOKR-TV will continue to pay for the real-time captioning of its 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. newscast, Monday through Saturday. The programs for captioning with funds from this project include: 1) "NewsSource 13 This Morning," airing Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 a.m.; 2) "NewsSource 13 at Noon," which airs Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.; 3) "NewsSource 13 at Five," airing Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.; 4) "NewsSource 13 at Eleven," airing seven days per week from 11:00 to 11:35 p.m.; and 5) "Many Voices, Many Visions," a multicultural public affairs program.

Products: The programming mix selected for real-time captioning under this project reflects a variety of WOKR-TV news and public information programs that address the diverse interests of the viewing audience for news coverage throughout the day.

Grant Number: H327L020036

Local News Programming — WOIO-TV, Cleveland, Ohio

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Visual Audio Captioning (VAC), with cooperation with WOIO-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, will provide real-time captions for WOIO's newscasts airing 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday, 12-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 6-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 6:30-7 p.m. Sunday, and 11-11:35 p.m. Sunday-Saturday. These captions will reach 1,513,130 households in the greater Cleveland area.

Method: VAC will train real-time captioners independently and cooperatively through the National Court Reporters Association. Captioners trained to specifically caption WOIO programming will be available to the entire captioning industry. This project will involve individuals with disabilities in its planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Products: This project will increase the capacity of the television captioning industry to respond to demands for accurate real-time captioning. The project will also improve the quality of life for the deaf and hard of hearing by providing daily hours of captioned local news and public information.

Grant Number: H327L020037

Accessible Local News and Public Information Programs — WHEC

Project Director: Finkelstein, Karen
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute (NCI) in collaboration with WHEC-TV in Rochester, New York, will complete closed captioning of approximately 2,886 hours of local news and public information television programming over a three-year period.

Method: By increasing the number of programs it is captioning, WHEC-TV will expand the range of news and public affairs programming accessible to Rochester's deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. As a demonstration of its commitment, the station will fund the real-time captioning of its 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. newscast Monday through Sunday. The programs for captioning with funds from this project include: 1) "News 10 NBC Today," airing Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 7:00 a.m.; 2) "News 10 NBC at Noon," airing Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.; 3) "Live at Five," airing Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.; and 4) "News 10 NBC at Eleven," airing Sunday through Saturday from 11:00 to 11:35 p.m.

Products: The programming mix selected for real-time captioning under this project reflects a variety of WHEC-TV news and public information programs and addresses the diverse interests of the viewing audience for news coverage throughout the day.

Grant Number: H327L020040

Accessible National News and Public Information Programs

Project Director: Finkelstein, Karen
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute, collaborating with five major television Networks — NBC, Fox News Channel, BET, The Weather Channel, and Turner Entertainment Group — will provide over 17,353 hours of closed captioning services for national news and public information programming over the three-year period.

Method: By adding these programs to the number already captioned, NCI will expand the range of news and public affairs programming accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing across the United States. The Weather Channel will provide a total of 1,820 hours per year of its daytime and evening programming available for captioning. For BET, NCI will caption a total of 286 hours per year of programming that includes a late-night weekly program and a weekend morning program. For Fox News Channel, NCI will caption 1,664 hours per year of news and analysis. Turner Entertainment Group will provide a new sports news program for captioning that will premiere on TNT in November 2002, for a total of 12.5 hours per year.

Products: The programming mix selected for real-time captioning under this project reflects a variety of national news and public information programs to address the diverse interests of viewing audience.

Grant Number: H327L020041

Accessible Children's Television #1: NETA Programming

Project Director: Duckler, Max S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will bring offline captioning and video descriptions to deaf and blind students, parents, and teachers nationwide. Programs to be captioned are provided by the National Educational Telecommunications Association and its independent television producers, which provide public television stations and educational entities with commercial-free products.

Method: The project will caption 120 hours of commercial-free, children's educational programming to be licensed for classroom use. The staff of captioners and describers at CaptionMax has extensive experience in closed-captioning and describing educational programs and its use of new software will help coordinate efforts to provide accurate captions and expressive descriptions. An advisory board made up of individuals who are either deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired will help select the programs and review the captioning and description.

Products: This project will make accessible a large number of educational programs that have never been described for blind or visually impaired students and that have never been captioned for deaf or hard-of-hearing students, thus making classroom materials fully accessible to this large population. In addition to the traditional audiences served by closed-captioning, children who need assistance with their literacy or English skills would benefit. Students who have cognitive impairments or learning disabilities would benefit from the video descriptions provided through this project. Both CaptionMax and NETA will disseminate information about this project to PBS stations across the country and to various education-based publications and service providers to the deaf and blind communities.

Grant Number: H327L020042

Accessible National News and Public Information Programs

Project Director: Okrand, Marc
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute (NCI) will collaborate with six major television networks and producers — ABC, King World, Fox Broadcasting, Bloomberg, BET, and MSNBC — to provide 18,780 hours of closed captioning services for national news and public information programming. Through this project, NCI will continue efforts to expand the range of news and public affairs programming accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing across the United States.

Method: ABC News will make its two morning news programs available for captioning, for a total of 2,600 hours of programming per year. Three programs from King World, airing both weekdays and weekends, will be captioned for a total of 182 hours per year. Fox Broadcasting will provide two shows, airing Thursday evening and Sunday morning, for a total of 124 hours per year of programming. Three news programs airing throughout the daytime hours from Bloomberg will be captioned for a total of 2,080 hours per year. BET will provide a half-hour weekly show that has never been captioned before, for 26 hours per year. MSNBC will provide 1,248 hours of its news per year for captioning.

Products: The programming mix selected for real-time captioning under this project reflects a variety of national news and public information programs and addresses the diverse interests of the viewing audience.

Grant Number: H327L020043

Closed-Captioning: Local News and Public Information Programming by the Media Access Group at WGBH

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The Caption Center, a service of the Media Access Group at WGBH, will make local news and public information television programs accessible to New England's approximately 1.4 million people who are deaf and hard of hearing, by providing high-quality real-time captioning.

Method: Each year, 386 hours of local news and public information programming will be captioned. A portion of this public information programming will be freely available on public television. The remaining programming will be supplied by a 24-hour local news network on basic cable television. Captioned programs will include "Basic Black" and "La Plaza" from WGBH, and "News at Nine" and news/public information specials from New England Cable News. An additional objective of this project is to continue to reach out to deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers to gather feedback and evaluation, and through the project's Consumer Advisory Group, approval on the program selection, educational value of the programming, and methods used for and quality of the captioning. Such feedback will be used to improve the project's captioning and outreach processes.

Products: By captioning local news and public information programming, this project will address the diverse interests and program choices of many different deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, such as public affairs programming aimed at African American and Latino audiences, and the human interest and hard news provided by daily local news broadcasts.

Grant Number: H327L020045

Accessible Children's TV: Nickelodeon and GAS Network Programming

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will bring offline captioning and video description of children's television programs to deaf and blind children and their families. Programming will be provided by the children's television network, Nickelodeon, and its sister companies, Nick Games and Sports for Kids (GAS) and Noggin/The N.

Method: All programs selected will be televised nationally and have a lengthy shelf life, airing many times on the individual networks and through cross-programming on the sister networks. Half of the selected programs will be broadcast as part of Cable in the Classroom and will be accompanied by support materials and teacher guides. All of the series chosen are educational in nature.

Products: CaptionMax will caption and describe 120 hours of children's programming. Through this project, CaptionMax will show the value of captioning and describing educational and culturally rich programs from networks designed specifically to reach kids.

Grant Number: H327L020046

Real-time Spanish National News

Project Director: Hansel, Michael
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will caption news and informational programs in Spanish in order to provide access for the underserved population of deaf and hard-of-hearing Spanish-speaking television viewers. The use of television as a means to learn more about news, information, and culture has grown. Deaf and hard-of-hearing people are at a disadvantage when their programs are not captioned, and Spanish-language speakers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (or who wish to increase their literacy in Spanish) will benefit from the captioning provided by this project.

Method: Over the three years of this project, CaptionMax will provide live, real-time captioning for over 540 hours of "Noticiero Telemundo" ("Telemundo News"), which reaches approximately 90% of Hispanic homes. Feedback from consumers and local and national deaf organizations will help ensure continued quality captioning.

Products: The project will continue to bring vital live news programming to Spanish-speaking deaf and hard-of-hearing people to increase their knowledge of and interaction with the world at large. CaptionMax and the Telemundo Network will create a comprehensive outreach and publicity plan to make potential viewers aware of the availability of these Spanish-captioned news programs. Broadcast and cable system affiliates and English- and Spanish-language daily newspapers will be sent press releases and schedules.

Grant Number: H327L020049

ABC Television Network — News Captioning

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, VITAC will caption 12.5 hours each week of ABC news programming available to national audiences, for a total of over 660 hours annually.

Method: This project will provide deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans with access to national news and public information programs by captioning over 660 hours of national news programming annually and by monitoring and captioning up to 2,700 hours in the event of ABC news special reports. VITAC will monitor the quality of the captioning and will continue to seek input from the deaf community through its advisory panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter.

Through its captioning, this project will help to meet the urgent daily needs of millions of who are deaf or hard of hearing and wish to be educated politically and culturally.

Grant Number: H327L020050

WTAE-TV Pittsburgh

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project VITAC will expand its real-time captioning on WTAE-TV, the local ABC-affiliated station in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by captioning 18 new hours of new reports each week.

Method: This project will provide deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans with access to national news and public information programs by continuing to caption annually over 960 hours of local news programming and to help increase the captioning of locally televised new programming that closely matches preferences of the captioning audience. VITAC will monitor the quality of the captioning and will continue to seek input from the deaf community through its advisory panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter. Through its captioning, this project will help to meet the urgent daily needs of millions of who are deaf or hard of hearing and wish to be educated politically and culturally.

Grant Number: H327L020052

Real-Time Stenographic Captioning Services to RNN - Regional News Network, New York, NY; OETA - the Oklahoma Network, Oklahoma City, OK; and Nebraska Educational Technology, Lincoln, NE

Project Director: Schulman, Anne L.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time stenographic captioning for news broadcasts on OETA, which reaches all of Oklahoma. The project will also provide real-time captioning for weekly public information programs on RNN, which serves the greater New York City area, and on Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, which serves Nebraska.

Method: OETA is the statewide public television station for the state of Okalahoma. RNN is a regional news network providing a unique program format, mixing news, discussion, and call-in opportunities about current topics. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications produces public television programs for the entire state of Nebraska. All of these stations serve areas where the availability of stenographic real-time captioning on live programming is lacking. By carrying pagers, captioners and project co-directors will be available to quickly provide captioning for emergency broadcasts.

Products: The project will provide real-time captioning services for the entire three years to a total of over 5 million viewers in the combined markets of Oklahoma and Nebraska, as well as reaching 6 million households in the New York City/Hudson Valley/Connecticut/New Jersey (Tri-State) area served by RNN. The outcomes of the project will be increased access to local community news, both through daily newscasts and weekly public information programs, for viewers who have a hearing loss, are learning English as a second language, learning to read, or viewing in noisy environments.

Grant Number: H327L020055

Providing Real-Time Stenographic Captioning Services to KCCG-TV2, the City of Kansas City, Missouri Government Cable Channel

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time stenographic captioning for the programs produced and aired on the Kansas City, Missouri-owned cable city information station KCCG-TV2.

Method: The City of Kansas City, Missouri, produces approximately 750 hours per year of city and county governmental affairs programs, including live broadcasts of city council and county legislative sessions. It is important that this information be made accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing residents of Kansas City, Missouri, an underserved market. By carrying pagers, captioners and project co-directors will be available to quickly provide captioning for emergency broadcasts.

Products: The project will provide real-time captioning services for the three years of the project to a total of over 450,000 viewers in Kansas City. These services will make public governmental and city information accessible to the approximately 40,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers living in Kansas City, as well as viewers who are learning English as a second language, learning to read, or viewing television in noisy environments.

Grant Number: H327L020056

CBS Television Network — News Captioning

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, VITAC will caption 7.5 hours each week of CBS news programming available to national audiences.

Method: The project will provide deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans with access to national news and public information programs by captioning over 390 hours of national news programming annually and by monitoring and captioning up to 525 hours of CBS news special reports. VITAC will monitor the quality of the captioning and will continue to seek input from the deaf community through its advisory panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to print and broadcast media. Through its captioning, this project will help to meet the urgent daily needs of millions of who are deaf or hard of hearing and wish to be educated politically and culturally.

Grant Number: H327L020057

Providing Real-Time Stenographic Captioning Services to KCTV in Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas and WCVE in Richmond/Petersburg, VA

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project will provide real-time stenographic captioning for news broadcasts on KCTV in Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas and real-time captioning for WCVE weekly public information programs in Richmond/Petersburg, Virginia.

Method: In each year of the project, Captioning Services of Kansas will provide approximately 825 hours of real-time captioning for the KCTV and WCVE television stations. By providing full access to the KCTV's morning show and 4:30 to 5 p.m. news broadcast, this project will begin to fulfill the needs of viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing. WCVE, the cooperating public broadcasting station in Richmond, will be given the real-time stenographic captioning on certain programs such as "Virginia Currents."

Products: The project will make local news and public information programming accessible to the approximately 450,000 total deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers in both Richmond/Petersburg and Kansas City. The outcomes of this project will increase access to local community news, both through daily newscasts and weekly public information programs, for viewers who have a hearing loss, are learning English as a second language, are learning to read, or are viewing in noisy environments.

Grant Number: H327L020059

Captioned Spanish-Language Programs: A Proposal to Caption News Programs Produced by Telemundo

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

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Purpose: This project will provide real-time, daily, captioned Spanish-language newscasts for America's Latino deaf population. Closed-captioned television is virtually the only cultural experience which hearing and non-hearing members of the same family can share on equal footing. This project will ameliorate the lack of television programming currently accessible to a deaf person who does not speak or read English, by providing access to national and international news programming for the population who is deaf or hard of hearing and whose primary language is Spanish.

Method: The project will provide five hours each week of real-time, daily captioned Spanish-language newscasts. The Telemundo network, where this captioning will be provided, reaches 90% of the Hispanic community in America. VITAC will work with a service with extensive experience in creating Spanish captioning to provide high-quality, reliable Spanish-language real-time captioning of Telemundo newscasts, totaling 260 hours annually.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to both print and broadcast media. VITAC's advisory panel for captions and video description will help expand the informational effort to the deaf and Hispanic community. Through its captioning, this project will help, in part, to meet the daily needs of millions of Spanish-speaking Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Grant Number: H327L020061

Court TV Television Network

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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, VITAC will caption 47.5 hours each week of Court TV programming available to national audiences.

Method: This project will provide deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans with access to information by captioning over 2,300 hours annually of live Court TV trial coverage and reporting and by monitoring and captioning up to 134 hours of new prerecorded informational programs that air in primetime on Court TV. VITAC will monitor the quality of the captioning and will continue to seek input from the deaf community through its advisory panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to print and broadcast media. Through its captioning, this project will help to meet the daily needs of millions of who are deaf or hard of hearing and wish to be educated politically and culturally.

Grant Number: H327L020062

WSB-TV (Atlanta) and WPXI-TV (Pittsburgh)

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/02
Ending Date: 9/30/05

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project VITAC will expand its real-time captioning services on WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, and provide new real-time captioning for WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The project will entail real-time weekly captioning of 10 hours of news reporting in each of the markets.

Method: This project will provide deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans with access to national news and public information programs by continuing to caption annually over 1040 hours annually of local news broadcasting in two of America's largest cities and to increase the captioning of locally televised programming that closely matches the preferences of the captioning audience. VITAC will monitor the quality of the captioning and will continue to seek input from the deaf community through its advisory panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will disseminate information about its captioning services through its quarterly newsletter. Through its captioning, this project will help to meet the urgent daily needs of millions of who are deaf or hard of hearing and wish to be educated politically and culturally.

84.327M
TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

Grant Number: H327M000003

The Computer Reader/Word Processor as a Compensatory Aid for Middle School Students with Learning Disabilities

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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

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Purpose: As the national school reform efforts raise the bar for academic performance for secondary students, the student with learning disabilities (LD) is put at increasing disadvantage. This is particularly true of secondary students with serious reading and writing deficits. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the use of a computer reader and word processor technology with a group of middle schools students with reading and writing disabilities.

Method: Specifically, the study will evaluate the Kurzweil 3000 computer reader and TextHELP! software, which were specially designed for individuals with disabilities. Twenty-five students with learning disabilities enrolled in five middle schools will be given access to a computer for use in their social studies and English coursework beginning in the second semester of seventh grade and continuing through the second semester of eighth grade. A comparison group of 25 students will also participate.

Products: The project will: 1) determine the impact of the computer reader/word processor package on measures of academic achievement of students with learning disabilities during seventh and eighth grades in two content areas; 2) determine the impact of the use of the technology on students' reading and writing skills; 3) evaluate teacher satisfaction with the technology; and 4) describe the differential effects of the use of the technology for various subgroups of students with learning disabilities.

Grant Number: H327M000013

Improving Communication and Coordination of Assistive Technology Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments

Project Director: Johnson, Violet W.
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Beginning Date: 11/01/00
Ending Date: 10/30/03

OSEP Contact: Louise Tripoli
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Purpose: This project will improve the assessment for and implementation of assistive technology (AT) for students in the Orthopedically Impaired (OI) Program in the Bibb County (Georgia) Program for Exceptional Children.

Method: The project will achieve five objectives: 1) set up a multi-point, computer-based video conferencing network through the county's existing wide area network, with an associated database for managing program, student, and family data; 2) improve the implementation and maintenance of AT for students by promoting collaborative teams including staff, families, students, and consultants; 3) establish a mentoring and training system for OI staff that is supported by the conferencing network; 4) integrate the families of the students in the program into the network by helping develop supports, providing training, and supplying network access; and 5) develop mechanisms for monitoring the outcomes of the program and continuously improving the systems.

Products: The project will achieve the following outcomes: 1) establish a secure, on-line conferencing network, starting with 10 nodes and growing to 20 by the end of the project; 2) establish a database that can track data related to both the system and the students; 3) develop transdisciplinary collaborative teams using a systematic framework to analyze students' needs and implement accommodations; 4) increase the number of mainstream classes planned for OI students by 15% per year; 5) increase the ratio of standardized academic test scores for OI students as compared with their mainstream peers by 15% per year; 6) reduce the loss of student access to their AT to three days or less per year; 7) promote the resolution of 50% of documented home-based barriers to students' use of AT every year; 8) document 25% improvement in school function, as measured using valid, AT-sensitive outcome measures; 9) set up and maintain mentoring dyads among all network participants; 10) provide 75% of requested AT training for network staff each year, with minimum of 80% participant satisfaction ratings; 11) maintain high levels of interaction among mentoring dyads, with total interactions increasing 25% from the beginning figures; 12) set up a Parent Support Network with a parent coordinator to help develop it into a self-sustaining entity; 13) train parent mentors to help other parents work as collaborators with the school; 14) increase parent/teacher communication 50% by the end of the second year; and 16) develop an advisory board to maintain continuous improvement in the system.

Grant Number: H327M000014

Assistive Technology for Law to Practice for Early Intervention Children with Disabilities

Project Director: Oliver, Deborah A.
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Beginning Date: 1/05/01
Ending Date: 1/04/04

OSEP Contact: Jane Hauser
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Purpose: This project focuses on the assistive technology needs of children, specifically applied to technology use and access, technology-integrated curriculum, and improving transitions for young children with regard to assistive technology needs. The project will serve children receiving early intervention in eastern Oregon.

Method: The first priority will be to develop, revise, and implement a process to consider and provide for assistive technology needs through the development of an Assistive Technology Plan, which includes the following elements: referral, evaluation, extended assessment, plan development and implementation, review, and transition planning. The second priority will be the implementation of assistive technology planning with a specific focus on integrating software, peripherals, access, and individual assistive technology needs into curriculum designed to increase developmental levels for children with disabilities. The final focus will be to increase the quality of transitions for children from Early Childhood Special Education to elementary school with regard to assistive technology needs, by focusing on training, policy development, and interagency agreements.

Products: The expected outcomes will include an Assistive Technology Plan for early intervention children, computer work stations at all Early Intervention classroom sites, and an Internet connection at each site. An equipment lending library, software library, and transition planning process will be developed. The targeted results will include improved assessment, plan development, and provision of technology-integrated services and/or devices to children. Transitions will reflect intentional attention to the assistive technology needs of children with no decrease in the provision of services and/or devices.

Grant Number: H327M000015

From Research to Practice: The Use of Microcomputer Technology to Enhance Infants' Lives Project

Project Director: Bednersh, Florene
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: Jane Hauser
Voice: 202-205-8126
E-mail: jane.hauser@ed.gov

Purpose: This school-based project will bring the research of microcomputer technology, in conjunction with the use of adaptive switches and pediatric software, into practice in the Early Start Infant Programs. The project will address the fact that the results of research and development efforts are not applied in practice and will help students to achieve their full potential.

Method: The project will focus on leadership and planning, access to appropriate technology, training, ongoing technical support and coaching, collaboration, and adequate teacher time. The project's technology model will be offered in the Early Start Centers, in the community, and in the infants' homes. Training will be offered to the teachers and parents of the infants.

Products: The integration of a comprehensive model for microcomputer technology into an existing public school structure will significantly increase the efficiency and quality of instruction, while decreasing the amount of teacher time needed to achieve instructional objectives. In addition, it will enhance the quality of life for the infants and their families.

Grant Number: H327M000018

Reading Instruction Every Adolescent Deserves: Technology Research to Practice Project (Project READTECH)

Project Director: Colley, Nancy
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Website: http://www.kckps.k12.ks.us/federal/grantsynopsis/synop-SpEd.htm#readtech

Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: Beverly Brightly
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Purpose: This collaborative effort among the Kansas City, Kansas (KCK) Public Schools, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the University of Kansas will develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain a professional development program that will further integrate the use of a research-based technology application into the education of at-risk learners and students with disabilities in the middle school environment.

Method: The project will offer: 1) the integration of a multimedia reading program (Scholastic's Anchored Instruction-Based READ 180) into the instruction of general and special education students in seven middle school buildings and one intensive special education program called the Bridges Program; 2) an intensive professional development program; 3) an ongoing and responsive classroom technical assistance program; 4) a collaborative effort with Kansas City Public Schools School-Wide reform efforts including several literacy projects and community partnerships; 5) online staff development to sustain ongoing training and classroom technology implementation beyond the life of the project; and 6) an intensive evaluation program measuring teacher technology use and student outcomes related to literacy.

Products: The seven middle school buildings and the Bridges Program (203 general education and 44 special education teachers) will integrate the READ 180 software program into their reading instruction across both general and special education students. Similarly, an effective staff development program will be implemented to further integrate effective instructional practice, including the use of technology tools to better serve the educational needs of all learners. To complement this training program, the University of Kansas will create an interactive online training program to introduce the READ 180 software and supplement face-to-face teacher training efforts.

Grant Number: H327M000019

Assistive Technology in the Schools

Project Director: Cieri, Anna
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Beginning Date: 1/01/00
Ending Date: 12/31/03

OSEP Contact: Jane Hauser
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Purpose: This project will identify, implement, and evaluate research-based approaches for using technology to improve the educational outcomes of elementary students with disabilities in the Williamsville Central School District in western New York.

Method: Within the three-year project, research-based approaches to assistive technology (AT) will be implemented within the six elementary buildings of the district. These methods will meet the unique needs of this suburban district, be systematically integrated into existing structures, and will continue after the project ends. The project will partner with local universities to build the capacity of school district personnel to screen, evaluate, apply, modify, and coordinate elements of successful AT interventions.

Products: The project will develop new, more relevant methods of providing students, parents, teachers, therapists, and school administrators with: 1) access to the ever-expanding knowledge base on educational and assistive technologies; 2) screening and evaluation procedures to address the AT needs of students; and 3) training on the use of AT in the classroom. Knowledge gained will be shared with all school stakeholders: children, teachers, educational aides, administrators, family members, and therapists in western New York as well as across the state and nation.

84.327N

OPEN-CAPTIONED EDUCATIONAL MEDIA: VIDEO SELECTION, CAPTIONING AND DISTRIBUTION

Grant Number: H327N010001

Open-Captioned Educational Media: Video Selection, Captioning and Distribution

Project Director: Stark, Bill
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/06

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
Voice: 202-205-9172
E-mail: ernest.hairston@ed.gov

Purpose: The National Association of the Deaf's Captioned Media Program (CMP) will evaluate, caption, and distribute media for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. The mission statement of the CMP is "Entering the twenty-first century, the ultimate goal of the CMP is to permit media to be an integral part in the lifelong learning process for all stakeholders in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community: adults, students, parents, and educators."

Method: The Captioned Media Program will contribute to the delivery of high-quality instruction as it provides open captions for learning materials for educators and deaf persons. The open captioning will be done using proportionally spaced upper- and lower-case letters, which is more effective than monospaced letters for beginning and remedial readers and for multicultural students' emerging literacy. Videos selected for classroom use will be at an appropriate language level and captions will be appropriately paced.

Products: The project will provide captions for materials reviewed and recommended by teachers and other professionals, parents, and/or deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers. Increased emphasis in collection building will be placed on filling multicultural needs. The project will also provide a free source of captioning information and training for beginning captioning agencies, media producers/distributors, schools, and others.

84.327P
CLOSED CAPTIONED SPORTS PROGRAMS

Grant Number: H327P000007

Closed Captioned Sports Programs: Fox and FX

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
VITAC Corporation
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Canonsburg, PA 15317-9503
Voice: 724-514-4000; *Fax:* 724-514-4111
E-mail: Joe-K@VITAC.com

Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
Voice: 202-205-8475
E-mail: joann.mccann@ed.gov

Purpose: This project will allow VITAC to continue to caption a variety of sports programs available to audiences on broadcast and basic-cable television networks. The project will continue the captioning of 754 hours of sports programs in a cost-effective manner.

Method: VITAC will continue and expand the captioning of nationally televised programs that closely match the preferences of the captioning audience. The project will expand private sector support for captioned programming by using federal funds as an inducement to increase funding support from program producers. The project, through its Caption Viewers Advisory Panel, will continue to seek support from the deaf community and to inform the community about the captioning work of the project.

Products: VITAC will continue its live captioning of over 700 hours of Fox Sports program and 54 hours of sports programs on the FX Network. Because of outside funding from the networks whose programs are being captioned, the amount of programming that can be captioned can be increased without an increase of federal funding.

Grant Number: H327P000008

Closed Captioned Sports Programs: NBC, USA, Global, and RHS

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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E-mail: joann.mccann@ed.gov

Purpose: This project will caption a variety of sports programs available to audiences on broadcast and basic-cable television networks, thus meeting a daily need of millions of American citizens who have not had access to the spoken narrative of televised sports programs.

Method: This project will provide sports captioning on the following networks: NBC Sports, USA Network sports, the EC Sports Network, and the Global Sports Network. It will continue and expand the captioning of nationally televised programs that closely match preferences of the captioning audience, expand private-sector support for captioned programs by using federal funds as an inducement to increase funding support from program producers, and continue to seek input from the deaf community through VITAC's Caption Viewers Advisory Panel and to inform the deaf community about this project.

Products: The project will continue the following annual captioning capacities: 316 hours of NBC sports programs, more than 75 hours of sports on the USA Network, 142 hours on the EC Sports Network, and 13 hours on the Global Sports Network.

Grant Number: H327P000012

Closed Captioned Sports Programs: NFL Films

Project Director: Karlovits, Joseph R.
VITAC Corporation
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Canonsburg, PA 15317-9503
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Through this project, VITAC will caption a series of programs about professional football produced by NFL Films. These timely pieces will be made available to audiences on broadcast and basic-cable networks.

Method: The project will expand the capability of VITAC to caption nationally televised programs that closely match preferences of the captioning audience. Through its Caption Viewers Advisory Panel, VITAC will continue to seek input from the deaf community and inform that community about this project.

Products: VITAC will annually caption 346 programs produced by NFL Films, which amounts to over 220 hours of film. NFL Films will offer support to help fund caption preparation and off-line encoding costs, which will increase the amount of programming that can be captioned.

Grant Number: H327P000014

Closed Captioned Sports Programs: Fox and Turner

Project Director: Okrand, Marc
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Beginning Date: 10/01/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project of the National Captioning Institute (NCI) will involve a collaboration with the Turner Entertainment Network and the Fox Broadcasting Company to provide 343 hours of closed-captioning services for basketball games and other sports programming. The project will increase the availability of closed-captioned sports programming for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, including teens and Spanish-speaking populations.

Method: The project will provide almost 325 hours of captioning each grant year for National Basketball Association pre-season and regular season games, and playoffs airing on TBS and TNT (Turner networks). Fox will help caption 20 hours of sports programs each year. The Fox shows are targeted to youth ages 12 to 17. Captioning will be done off-line in real time.

Products: In all, this project will offer captions for almost 400 hours of sports programming annually to as many as 100 million households.

Grant Number: H327P000016

Providing English and Spanish Language Real-Time Captioning of Sports

Project Director: Hansel, Mike
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Beginning Date: 10/27/00
Ending Date: 9/30/03

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project of Real-Time Captioning (RTC) will provide low-cost closed captions for real-time English-language and Spanish-language televised sports programming. The English-language programs will be televised nationally on the NBC television network and Spanish-language programs will be broadcast on Telemundo, a national Spanish-language network.

Method: RTC will caption almost 400 hours of live sports events for NBC and Telemundo in order to demonstrate the importance of captioning all types of sporting events and to make a greater number of programs accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. It will advertise the availability of these captioned programs through community newsletters, publications for the deaf community, other publicity-related events, and the efforts of its consumer advisory board.

Products: This project will meet the needs of the deaf community within the English-language and Spanish-language communities. Some of the events to be captioned will include the Wimbledon competition, the Breeders Cup, Triple Crown horse races, National Basketball Association games, Sportsworld programs, and Futbol Telemundo.

84.327Q
CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED ACTIVITY

Grant Number: H327Q020001

Reading Rockets: A Multimedia Literacy Project

Project Director: Gunther, Noel
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E-mail: ngunther@weta.com
Website: http://www.readingrockets.org

Beginning Date: 7/01/02
Ending Date: 6/30/05

OSEP Contact: Jane Hauser
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Purpose: "Reading Rockets" is a multimedia project that will disseminate research findings on early diagnosis, intervention, and effective strategies for teaching reading to young children with reading disabilities. "Reading Rockets" aims to reach teachers, parents, child care providers, school administrators, policy makers, and others who care about helping at-risk children learn how to read.

Method: The "Reading Rockets" project includes the following: 1) a one-hour documentary on reading instruction, to be narrated by Morgan Freeman, airing in the spring of 2002; 2) an ambitious, comprehensive reading World Wide Web site (www.readingrockets.org) offering practical information, expert advice, and resources on reading; 3) a five-part educational series focusing on innovative strategies to teach reading, featuring children's book authors such as Kate Duke, Rosemary Wells, and William Joyce; 4) a series of teleconferences produced in conjunction with the National Association of State Directors of Special Education; and 5) a bilingual print guide.

Products: This project plans to: 1) extend the life of the "Reading Rockets" World Wide Web site and provide additional features on the site; 2) produce a sixth-half hour program in the educational TV series; 3) broadcast the entire educational series on public television; 4) launch an intensive outreach effort, including the creation of a local outreach initiative that will serve as a model for national replication; 5) launch a more extensive promotional effort for the documentary and World Wide Web site; and 6) produce public service announcements featuring children's book authors and famous astronauts, to be aired on public TV stations.

84.327S

CLOSED-CAPTIONED DAYTIME TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Grant Number: H327S010003

Captioned Daytime Television: Spanish Language Programming

Project Director: Duckler, Max S.
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: This project aims to meet the needs of a vastly underserved portion of the U.S. population—deaf and hard of hearing Spanish-speaking television viewers.

Method: CaptionMax will provide offline closed captions for "La Corte del Pueblo" and "Cine de la Tarde" for Telemundo Network. All the programs in this project are Spanish-language programs airing during daytime hours and all will be captioned in Spanish.

Products: This project will continue and expand the variety of closed captioned daytime television programming available on a national basis. CaptionMax will bring accessible daytime programming to Spanish-speaking deaf and hard of hearing people, the fastest growing and an underserved segment of U.S. population.

Grant Number: H327S010008

Closed Captioned Daytime Television Programs - 1

Project Director: Okrand, Marc
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The nonprofit National Captioning Institute (NCI) will collaborate to provide 1,887 hours of closed captioning services each year for this project. The mix of programming planned will be of interest to a diverse audience, as evidenced by a recent NCI survey of deaf and hard-of-hearing television viewers.

Method: Captioning will be provided through partnerships with: 1) MSNBC, an all-news cable television network; 2) Oxygen Media, which provides diverse programming targeted specifically to women; 3) AMC, with programming devoted to classic films as well as original productions about American film; and 4) Ovation, with informational and educational programs featuring authors, the theatre, artists, composers, architecture, and musicians.

Products: This project will offer closed captioning for 1,887 hours of daytime programming to over 71 million households.

Grant Number: H327S010010

Closed Captioned Daytime Television Programs - 2

Project Director: Okrand, Marc
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: The National Captioning Institute (NCI) will collaborate with four cable networks—ESPNews, CNN en Espanol, Outdoor Life Network (OLN), and Speedvision Network—to provide 1,651 hours of closed captioning services each year for this project, including 52 hours of Spanish-language captioning per year. The mix of programming planned for this project is of great interest to a diverse audience, as evidenced by a recent NCI survey of deaf and hard of hearing television viewers.

Method: ESPNews is an all-news sports cable television network. CNN en Espanol provides continuous Spanish-language news coverage of major world events, worldwide business news, global weather updates, as well as sports and feature programming. OLN is a 24-hour cable basic network that focuses on expeditions and adventure, wildlife and environmental issues, and other outdoor sports and activities. NCI will also be partnering with Speedvision, a 24-hour cable network providing in-depth and authoritative automotive, marine, aviation and motorcycle coverage.

Products: This project will offer 1,651 hours of daytime programming to over 38 million households.

Grant Number: H327S010014

Closed Captioned Programming on Fox News Channel

Project Director: Ferrier, Patricia
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Media Captioning Services (MCS) will provide stenographic real-time and live display captioning services for Fox News Channel daytime news programming.

Method: Viewers of Fox News Channel, which reaches more than 60 million homes, will have captioning for Fox's live weekday daytime programming, which features in-depth news coverage, live breaking news, and fair and balanced coverage of the day's events.

Products: This project will assure continued access for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers to Fox News Channel, to enable them to be kept well informed about today's world during key daytime hours.

Grant Number: H327S010015

Closed Captioned Programming on CNN

Project Director: Ferrier, Patricia
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: JoAnn McCann
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Purpose: Media Captioning Services (MCS) will provide stenographic real-time and live display captioning services of CNN (Cable News Network) daytime news programming.

Method: Viewers of CNN, which reaches more than 81 million homes, will have weekday and weekend captioning of CNN's daytime programming, which features in-depth news coverage; live breaking news; and specialized daily reports on business, finance, medicine, and science.

Products: This project will assure continued access for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers of CNN, to enable them to be kept well informed about today's world during key daytime hours.

84.327T

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES FOR DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING INDIVIDUALS

Grant Number: H327T010003

More Dreams to Sign

Project Director: Calhoun, Wendy Jonas; Yeh, Mary
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Beginning Date: 1/01/02
Ending Date: 12/31/04

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
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Purpose: The Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (BAPA's) project, "More Dreams to Sign," is intended to: 1) improve the quality and value of BAPA's integrated (deaf and hearing) Deaf Access Companies (Senior Deaf Access and Junior Deaf Access) and Hand in Hand (adult) Company productions; 2) promote awareness of deafness, deaf culture, and the achievements of the deaf among actors, audiences, teachers, school children, and the public, with a special emphasis on the educational market; 3) promote appreciation of other cultures by producing plays based on folk tales from other cultures, and inviting deaf and hearing guest artists from those cultures to act, direct, and conduct workshops; 4) involve and promote the advancement of individuals with disabilities in project planning and implementation; and 5) provide quantitative and qualitative data on growth of awareness of deaf culture among audiences who view Deaf Access Company and Hand in Hand Company productions.

Method: BAPA's Deaf Access Program will work to build academic, artistic, and social skills, and self-confidence in deaf students. Through theatre, the program will open the culture of the deaf to people in the hearing world, and vice versa.

Products: Building on the successful "Dreams to Sign" project, the "More Dreams to Sign" project will design and implement cultural activities for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing youth and adults, including theatrical productions, tours, workshops, videos, a book, documentaries, broadcasting, and educational materials.

Grant Number: H327T010004

Lexington Performing Arts Project

Project Director: Keane, Kevin
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Jackson Heights, NY 11370
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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
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Purpose: The goals of the Performing Arts Project are to improve deaf children's literacy and educational outcomes, provide vocational opportunities for young deaf adults, and raise the awareness of the public about the talents and accomplishments of deaf people.

Method: With New York City Community District 25 and the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation as key partners, Lexington School for the Deaf will integrate deaf and hard-of-hearing children with hearing children, and the deaf and hard-of-hearing adults with hearing adults, in dance education and theatrical productions. The project will use the Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) approach to educating deaf children.

Products: The expected outcomes of this project are the following: 1) educational outcomes will improve for the deaf students who participate directly in project activities; 2) young adults will increase their vocational skills; and 3) 2,000 new members of the hearing public will come each year to the Lexington Performing Arts Center to enjoy and appreciate performances that highlight the accomplishment and talents of deaf people. Videos will be produced of both the dance and theatrical productions and will be disseminated within the educational community to heighten awareness of the project and encourage its adoption as a model.

Grant Number: H327T010008

Theatre Bridge

Project Director: Wales, Alexandria; McCarty, Tim
Quest: Arts for Everyone
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Beginning Date: 12/01/01
Ending Date: 11/30/04

OSEP Contact: Ernest Hairston
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Purpose: Quest: Arts for Everyone, in partnership with Gallaudet University, will provide a variety of cultural activities to enrich the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing people. By enlightening the general public and by conducting advocacy activities, the Theatre Bridge partners will increase training and employment opportunities in the arts for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Method: The Theatre Bridge Project will: 1) produce professional theatrical productions that feature casts and production staff of deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people; 2) provide scholarships for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to attend the Quest Academy, which features eight-week courses in theatre and dance and places strong emphasis on visual theatre; 3) provide schools, assisted living centers, and independent living centers serving under-represented or economically disadvantaged populations with reduced-fee or no-cost performances by Quest's touring company, "Road Signs," whose performances celebrate deaf culture through sign mime, A-B-C stories, poetry, songs performed in sign language, and dance; 4) conduct an annual retreat for aspiring deaf and hard-of-hearing playwrights; 5) support approximately 100 American deaf and hard-of-hearing artists to participate in the Deaf Way II Arts Festival and Artists' Symposium that will take place at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Maryland, and Gallaudet University to celebrate the visual, performing, and literary arts of deaf and hard-of-hearing people; 6) encourage professional theatres in the Washington metropolitan area through the League of Washington Theatre's Accessibility Committee; and 7) promote training and employment opportunities in the arts for deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders through the Maryland Governors' Advisory Committee on Careers in Arts for People with Disabilities.

Products: Quest will report progress of the Theatre Bridge Project to the ArtsBridge National Task Force and National Council. Quest will also disseminate information about the project through its biannual newsletter, World Wide Web site, and articles in newsletters and journals.

Grant Number: H327T010010

The Impact of Theatrical Experiences on the Total Development of the Individual Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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Beginning Date: 10/01/01
Ending Date: 9/30/04

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Purpose: This project will explore the impact of theatrical experience on the total development of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing training, knowledge, and skill development that will lead to the enhancement of the adult experience, irrespective of hearing status or cultural background. The project will also develop awareness and appreciation by the hearing public of the artistic contributions to society by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Method: The project will develop and produce an annual professional adult play with parts for children, an annual children's play, and a biannual play for teenagers. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing across the state of Illinois will be involved in two ten-week theater and dance workshops and an annual summer drama camp. An original professional show about deafness and deaf culture will run weekly in conjunction with a Children's Museum on Deafness developed by the project.

Products: As a result of the project's activities, children, teens and adults will receive training in all aspects of theater by professional adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing. The project will help them develop their cognitive, artistic, vocational, and social skills; will present information about children's literature, American Sign Language and its application to the arts, and the cultural aspects of deafness; and will develop a fuller appreciation for literature and the performing arts. Project activities will be held in public, private, and residential schools in inner city and suburban areas.

Grant Number: H327T010017

Deaf Youth Drama Program

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Beginning Date: 1/01/02
Ending Date: 12/31/04

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Purpose: The primary objective of this program is to provide opportunities for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing youth to develop personally and artistically through theatre education and theatre arts training taught by Deaf theatre professionals.

Method: The program will conduct the following activities: 1) local residencies in Puget Sound area schools, culminating in the "Deaf Kids Drama Festival," at Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT); 2) statewide outreach residencies, preceded by an interactive video conference, also culminating in a performance for family, friends, and the community; 3) summer classes and conservatories for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children, teens, and young adults, with the conservatories including a professional quality theatrical production; and 4) development of a structured national model, demonstrating the program and disseminating information to target communities nationwide. The primary participants in the Deaf Youth Drama Program (DYDP) are in grades K-12. However, this program serves their hearing peers, families, and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities as well.

Products: The following outcomes are expected from this project each year: 1) more than 150 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students in the Puget Sound region served through the local residencies and "Deaf Kids Drama Festival"; 2) more than 150 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students served throughout Washington state through the interactive video conferencing and outreach residencies; and 3) more than 25 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students from throughout western Washington served through the summer classes and conservatory. In addition, the following outcomes from the project will occur over the course of the three-year project: 1) establishment of three to four similar programs throughout the country; 2) increased awareness of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing culture in Washington State; and 3) increased academic and personal achievement among Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program participants.

84.327X
RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON TECHNOLOGY FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

Grant Number: H327X010003

Research Institute on the Use of Technology in Early Intervention

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Beginning Date: 1/01/02
Ending Date: 12/31/06

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Purpose: The complexity of issues surrounding the use of assistive technology (AT) to support the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities is the focus of a comprehensive and integrated five-year program of research and dissemination that has a projected result of impacting AT use and the practices of early intervention service providers and families. AT devices/services have the potential for promoting children's opportunities to learn from activities in their homes and in community settings where they and their families spend time. As such, AT, whether low- or high-tech, is a tool that can be successfully used by families to increase their children's learning opportunities.

Method: The Institute's research program is guided by a conceptual model that views families at the center of their children's learning and development. Families play a key role in mediating "mismatches" between their children's abilities and the social and physical demands of environmental settings. AT devices/services can be meaningful mediators to the extent that families are informed about, and have easy access to, AT resources. Other factors that may impact AT knowledge and access include policy, community resources and financing, and the perceptions and knowledge about AT held by early intervention service providers and families. These factors, and their interrelationships, comprise the five major areas of the research program: 1) AT use; 2) policy and resources; 3)decision making practices; 4) training and support; and 5) dissemination. A comprehensive program of research will be implemented in each of these areas in order to gain a broad-based view of AT within early intervention programs across the country. More detailed and focused studies will be implemented in two communities in each of a specially selected sample of 12 states (total of 24 communities). The Institute is a collaboration between two universities, Thomas Jefferson University and Arizona State University, which provide the Institute with linked sites in the eastern and western regions of the country.

Products: Technology is a major component of the way in which the Institute's objectives will be accomplished. A World Wide Web site is a central feature and will be used for data collection, training and information dissemination, and other functions. Interviews will be computer-assisted so that results may be easily tabulated and analyzed. Teleconferencing, email, listservs, and other traditional modes of communication will be used to promote collaboration among Institute participants.

84.327Z

CENTER TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Grant Number: H327Z010003

National Technology Innovation Center

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Ending Date: 9/30/06

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Purpose: The American Institutes for Research (AIR), in partnership with the University of Delaware, will create a national center to support technology innovation for students with disabilities. The Center will develop a World Wide Web site that will disseminate information related to the Center, conduct surveys, enable users to search a database of special education resources, and provide password-protected access to discussion forums and training materials that the Center will develop.

Method: The University of Delaware's role will be to design and develop the Website. The project will use the Website to disseminate research syntheses and to provide access to reports and documents that can be printed on demand over the Internet. In order to provide users with quick access to the information they need, the project will enter these materials into a searchable database that users will be able to query. The project will use the Website to administer surveys to collect and analyze information and opinions needed to support the work of the Center and its partners. The Website will also announce the Center's annual technology conference. AIR is enlisting the support of several partners including: 1) corporate partners: University of Kentucky, University of Delaware, and SUNY - Buffalo; 2) affiliated partners: Johns Hopkins University, Michigan State University, and University of Utah; and 3) strategic partners: The Council for Exceptional Children, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, and PACER. Some of the partners will conduct research syntheses and other partners will create videos and training materials.

Products: This project will design and develop a Website, videos, and training materials to support technology innovation for students with disabilities. Teachers will be able to log on to the Website and complete interactive tutorials that teach and demonstrate how to use the products of the Center. Through the Website, users will obtain access to videos and multimedia training materials that use audio, graphics, and animations to illustrate and disseminate findings of the Center. The Website will also provide online access to software applications that are being used to diagnose, prescribe, and deliver online resources that can help students with disabilities.

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